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Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



Leroy D. Baca
SHERIFF

An Introduction to INMATE TATTOOS



Presented By
Deputy John Williams
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

WARNING

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Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

Since 1850

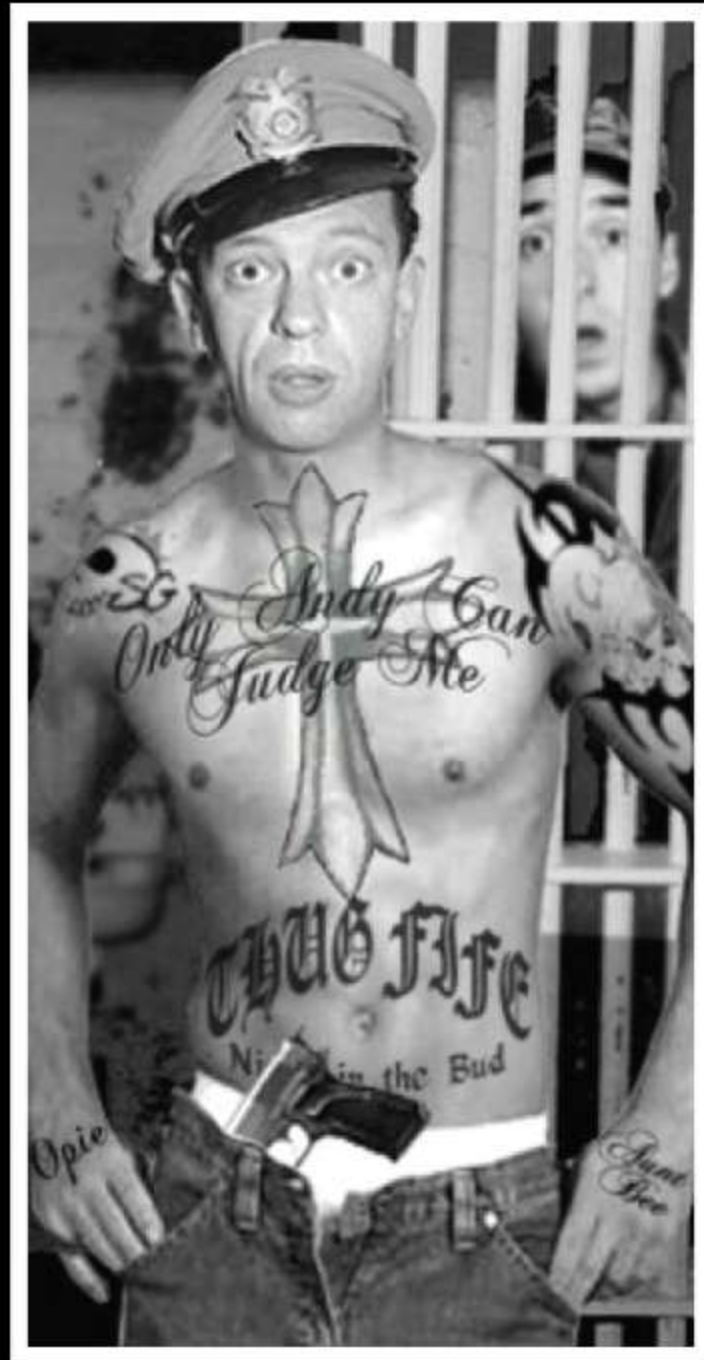


Sagging finally explained...



INMATE TATTOOS

Most jail made tattoos have hidden or cryptic meanings to them and can often be characterized or associated to a certain gang, race, group, or criminal. Understanding these associations and hidden meanings can help jail staff better solve crimes and operate more safely in the jails and on the streets



READING TATTOOS

- *A gang tattoo is the best indicator of gang membership*
- *Tattoos can be read and understood by the informed investigator and other gang bangers.*
- *Their tattoos usually includes the name, initials or symbols of the gang.*
- *Most jail made tattoos are dark blue in color.*
- *Names and hometown are often depicted in old English Script.*
- *Lettering may be found on the knuckles arms, neck, or just about anywhere else on the body.*



Tattoos can solve crimes

- In August 2008, a LASD Homicide Sergeant researching a cold case homicide in the city of Pico Rivera recognized the crime scene tattooed on the chest of a local gangmember who had his tattoos photographed during the booking process for an unrelated graffiti crime.
- The tattoo depicted crime details only the suspect would know. This led to his arrest and conviction five years after the original crime had occurred.



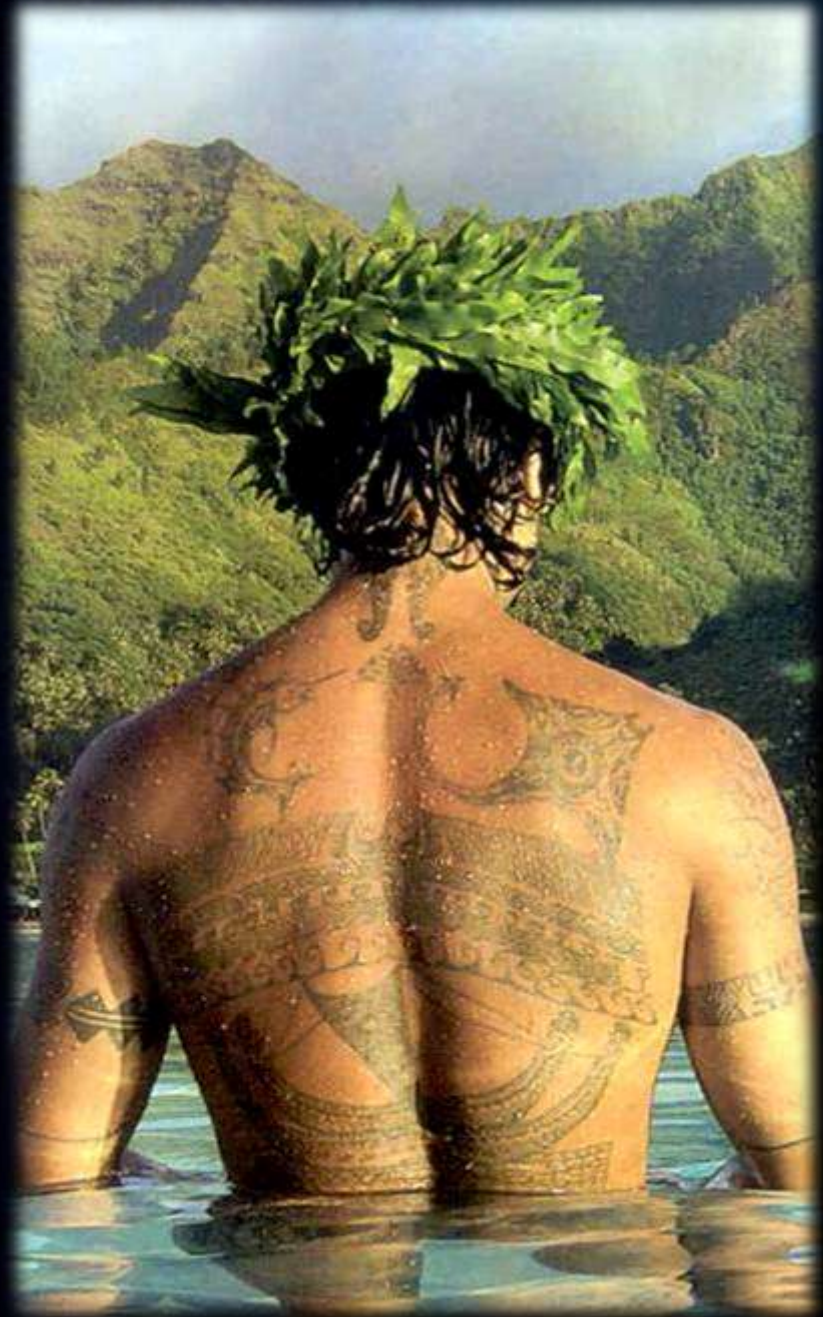
Original Crime Scene



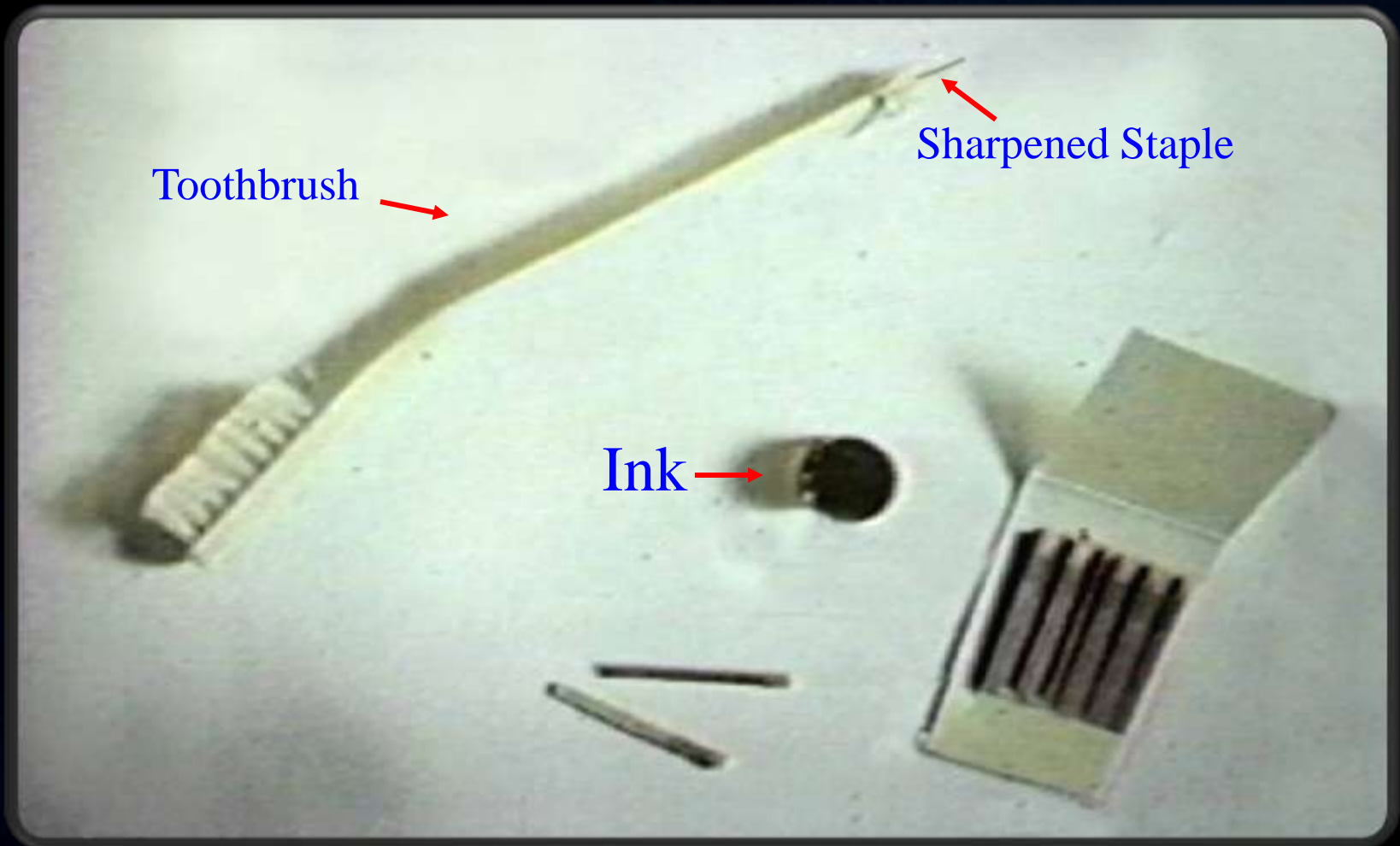
- Tattoos come in all shapes and sizes, and they can appear almost anywhere on someone's body.
- Cosmetic Tattoos can also appear on eyebrows, eyeliner and lip liner for those who want their makeup to be permanent.
- The practice of tattooing means different things in different cultures.
- Decoration appears to be the most common motive.
- In some cultures, tattoos served as identification of the wearer's rank or status in a group. For example, the early Romans tattooed slaves and criminals.

The origin of Tattoos?

- The art of tattoo goes back thousands of years. Archeologists have discovered Egyptian mummies with tattoos.
- The word “tattoo” was coined in the 18th century by Captain James Cook as he mispronounced the Tahitian word “tatau”, which means “to tap the mark into the skin.”
- In Tahitian society, tattoos are used to indicate social status, family connections and special roles, such as being a warrior or a fisherman.
- Many designs and figures still hold significance: Dolphins symbolize wisdom, turtles are equated with fertility, and tiki figures encompass the idea of protection.



YOUR BASIC JAIL TATTOO KIT

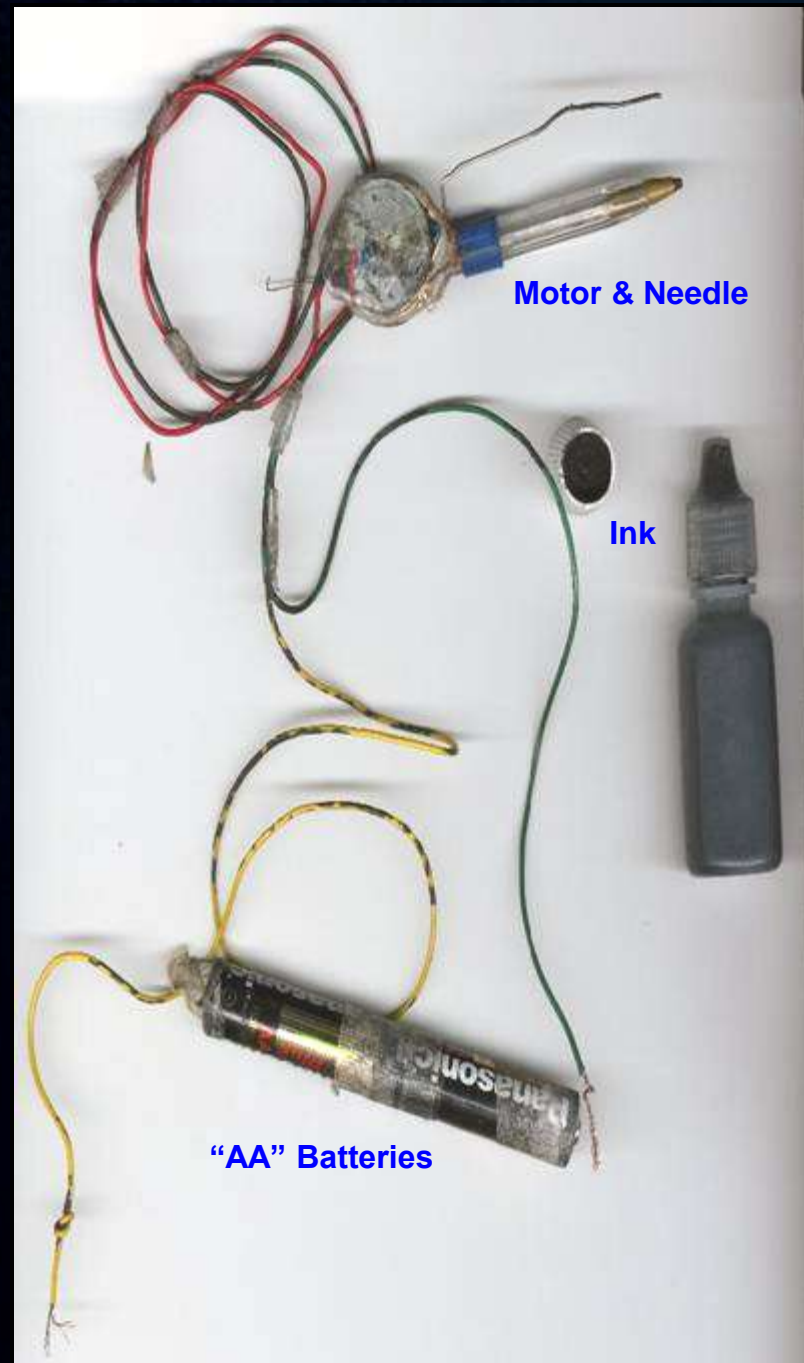


Matches are normally used to create charcoal that is mixed with tooth paste to create ink.

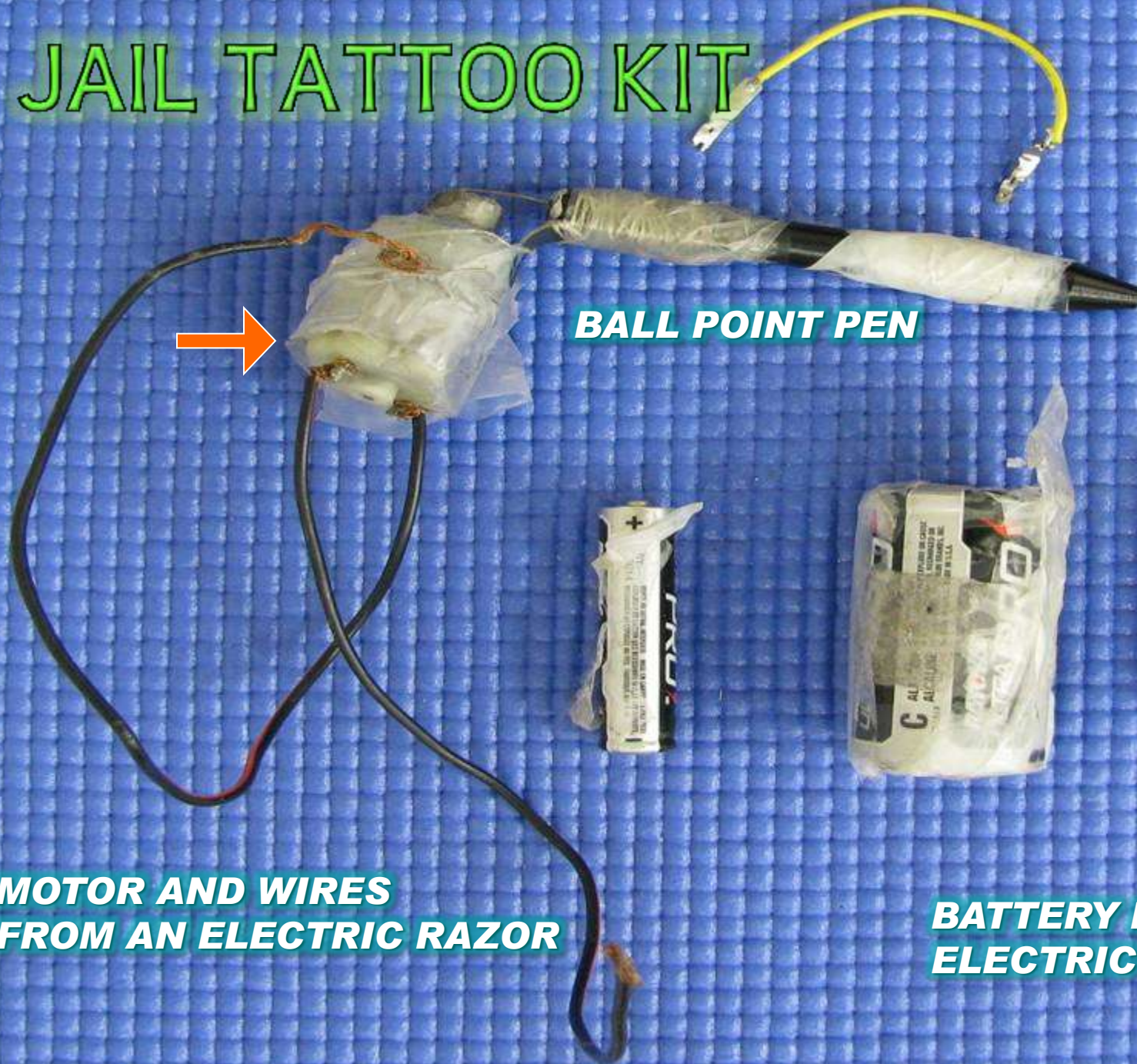
JAIL TATTOO KIT

This picture depicts a more sophisticated tattooing kit.

The needle has been made from a small electric hobby motor that uses a converted and sharpened ball point pen as the needle. The motor acts to reciprocate the needle back and forth into the skin.



JAIL TATTOO KIT



BALL POINT PEN

**MOTOR AND WIRES
FROM AN ELECTRIC RAZOR**

**BATTERY FROM AN
ELECTRIC RAZOR**

TATTOO REMOVAL

This is what it
looks like when
you try to get
your tattoos
professionally
removed

SWASTIKA



TATTOO MAKING



This is a tattoo design ready to be made



This is a infected wound caused by an unsanitary tattoo needle

- *Tattooing is not allowed inside the Jails due to health and liability concerns.*
- *There is serious risk of contagious skin infections from homemade tattooing that can be transmitted by direct contact.*
- *Common side effects are Hepatitis C, HIV, Tetanus, MRSA, & Allergic reactions.*
- *It typical costs about \$25,000 to medically treat one inmate with Hepatitis C.*

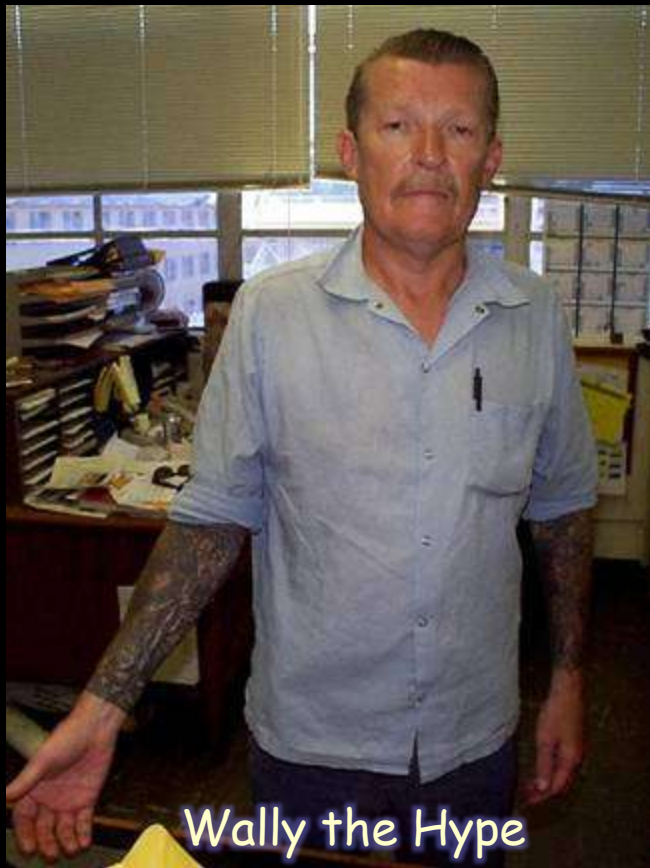
BLACK LIGHT TATTOOS



- o Black Light tattoos are the latest fad in body art, although it has not been taken up with the criminal element as of yet.
- o This is probably because most gang members are proud of their gang association, and normally want to advertise their loyalty appropriately.
- o With this type of tattoo, you can usually see the scarring for several months after application.
- o After about 6 months the tattoo will be completely invisible to the naked eye.
- o The ink is expected to last about 3-5 years.

TATTOO CAMOUFLAGE

This is a "Hype" who hides his needle marks with a tattoo on his forearm.



Wally the Hype



Tattoos bring on Stereotypes

This image was manipulated by this defendant's attorney to help convince the gentleman to change his appearance for the jury.

Let's see what he looked like when he was arrested.



Richard Rodriguez M/23
“Smokey” El Monte Flores

Tattoos bring on Stereotypes



Bad Boy Dennis Rodman

All major sports have athlete's with visible tattoos, especially the NBA. This can result in stereotyping the individuals.

Kenyon Martin of the Denver Nuggets has a "lipstick" tattoo on his neck which is a known Sureno Tattoo. When asked, Martin said it symbolized his love for his girlfriend.



WHITE POWER



Miscellaneous White Power Tattoos



WHITE POWER



Skulls

Marijuana

Lighting Bolts

Eagle

Confederate Flag

Eagle

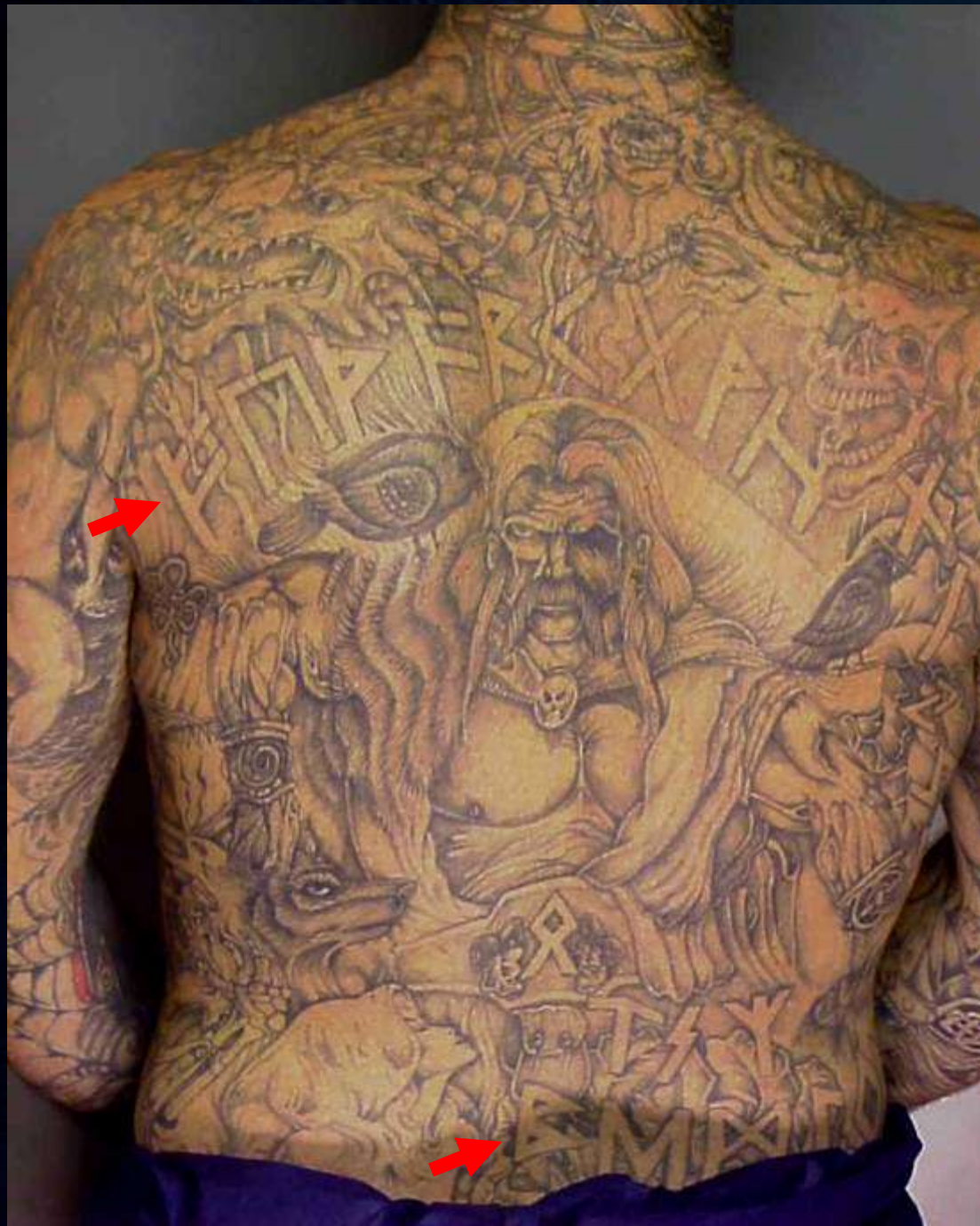
Harley Davidson Bike & Logo

"White Pride - Real Mother F%&kers"

Lot's of Skulls, Swastikas, and Nordic symbols



Celtic Runes are used to
disguise text





Nazi “SS” Lighting Bolt Tattoos



- *Lighting bolt tattoos are often associated with white supremacists.*
- *They are often meant to spell out “SS” in reference to Adolf Hitler’s Secret Police that ran the Nazi Concentration Camps of WWII.*
- *The meaning of these tattoos is very subjective.*
- *Many gang enforcement and correctional officer’s have developed their own understanding of what these tattoos mean based on years of field interviews and intelligence.*
- *In fact, these tattoos are worn for many different reasons, but the one unifying reason is it represents a person’s support and affiliation with the white supremacist movement.*





Nazi “SS” Lightning Bolt Tattoos



- *The location of the tattoo along with whether it is “filled-in” may have meaning.*
- *Some Supremists say it means the wearer is a enforcer or assassin and may only be worn if the person has committed a assault or murder on a rival gang member.*
- *If the “bolts” are “filled in” may have additional meaning.*
- *If the tattoo is filled in it may indicate the wearer committed murder for the gang. If the tattoo is not filled-in, it may mean only a serious assault took place.*
- *Some other possible meanings can be derived from the location of the tattoo. If it is located on the shoulder blade, it may mean the individual is an “assassin” for the gang.*
- *If it is on the forearm, it may mean the person is an “enforcer” for the gang.*
- *If it is on the neck, it may mean the individual is “under protection”.*

More "bolts" tattoo examples





Devil Head



Hitler & Mussolini

**“14” = The
“14 Words”**

We Must Secure
the Existence of
Our People And A
Future For
White Children.
— 14 WORDS





2316 = WHITE POWER

“W” IS 23RD LETTER OF THE ALPHABET

“P” IS 16TH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET



1488 = 14 WORDS + “HEIL HITLER”



“Death Squad”



***“666” = Biblical sign
of the Devil***



“88” = “HH” or Heil Hitler



Vicious White Boys



Southern Brotherhood



Orange County Star

SKINHEADS



XXX = "Straight Edgers"

SKINHEADS

Huntington Beach

Hard Core



Long Beach

SKINS



SWP = Supreme White Power



Crossed Hammers



"U & S" stands for "United Skins"

PECKERWOODS

Peckerwood is a term associated with White Power.



Nazi Swastika

Iron Cross

PECKERWOODS

PECKERWOODS



"Heritage not Hatred - Stand Proud"

"6 6 6" = Sign of the Devil



Warbirds



"SS" = Hitler's Secret Police

MISCELLANEOUS WHITE POWER SYMBOLS & LOGOS



Swastika in Blood



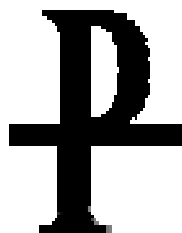
Aryan Fist
White Power Symbol



Sturmabteilung (SA)
Worn by Hitler's Brown Shirts
English equivalent known as Storm
Troopers



American Nazi Party



Phineas Priesthood



Christian Identity



Aryan Nations



NAAWP



Creativity Movement (W.C.O.T.C.)



Ku Klux Klan



National Alliance



Wolfsangel

MISCELLANEOUS WHITE POWER SYMBOLS & LOGOS



Cross Wheel



SS Death Head



Confederate Flag
Although powerful to some racists
Cannot always be indicate of racist
views



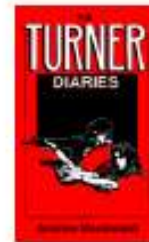
Skinheads



Iron Eagle



White Aryan Resistance



The Turner Diaries



SS Lightning Bolts
Awarded for acts of violence



National Socialist White Peoples' Party



North Side

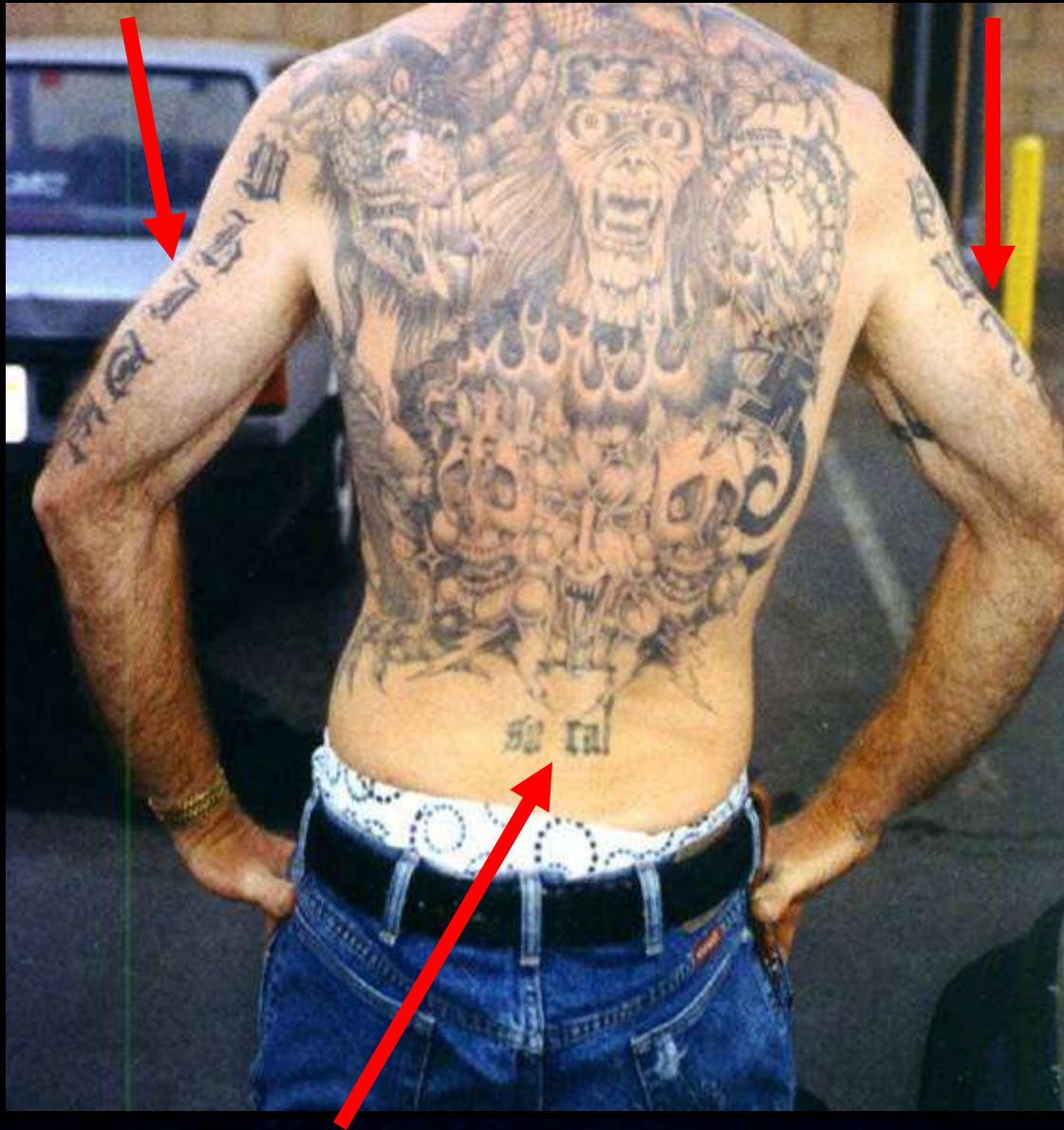


The Order



Neo-Nazi

“White”



“Pride”

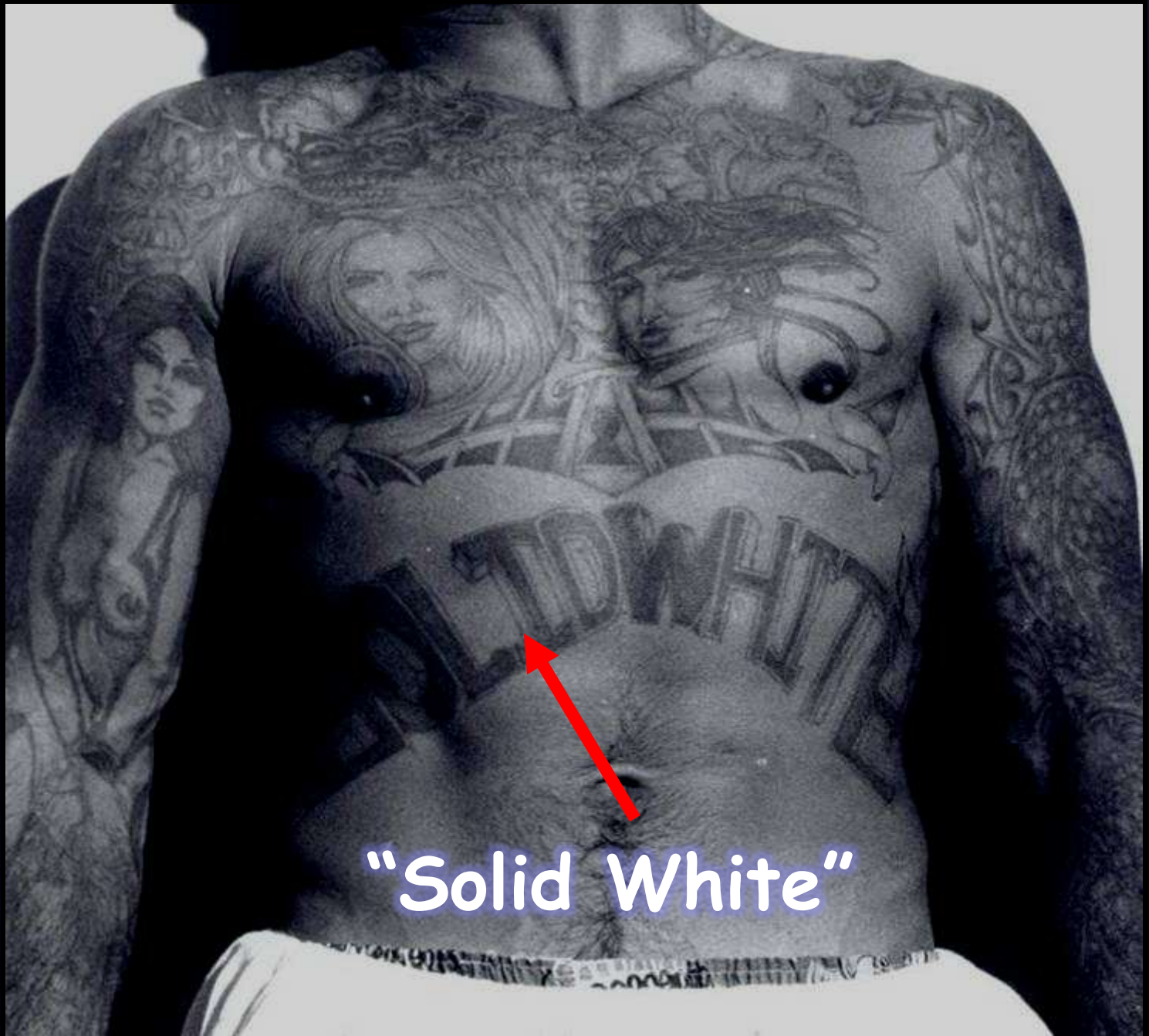


“Socal” Aka: Southern California

“Riverside”
(Where he's from)



Celtic Cross



"Solid White"



Dirty White Boy



War Skins



"SS" Death Head



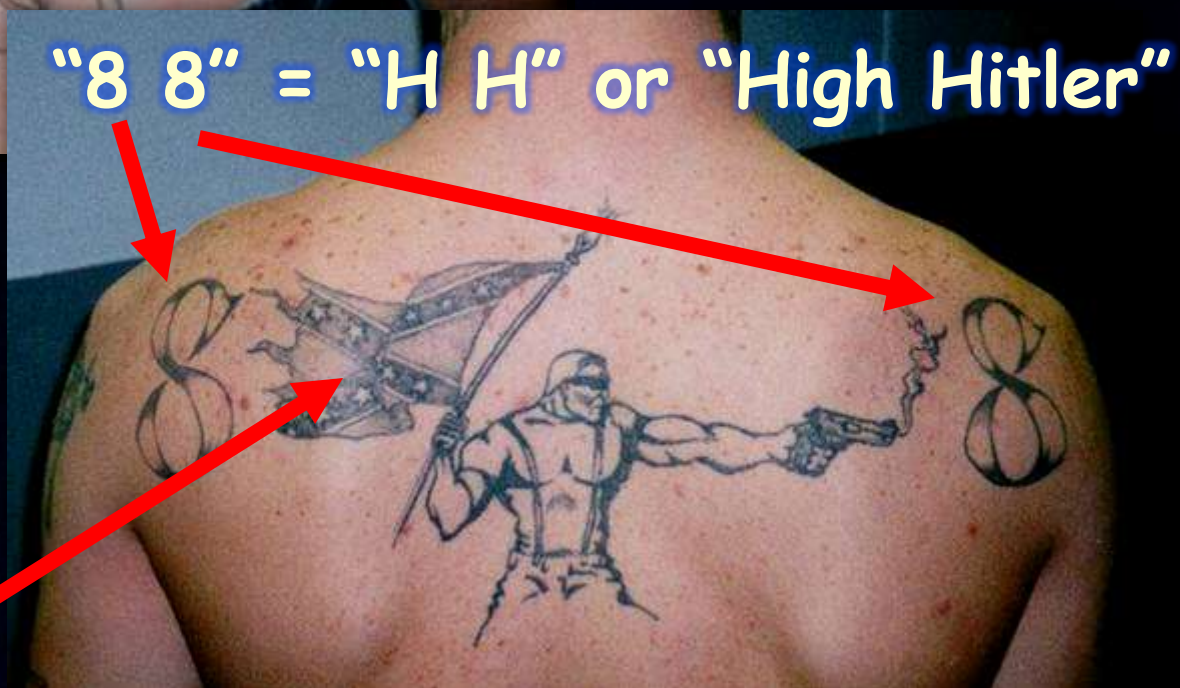
Thor's Hammer



Nazi thug assaults a Deputy Sheriff



"8 8" = "H H" or "High Hitler"



Confederate Flag



"OC Star" = Orange County



Hair may hide a hidden tattoo



Othala Rune (Faith in Pagan religion of Odinism)

"Celtic Circle"



Pentagram





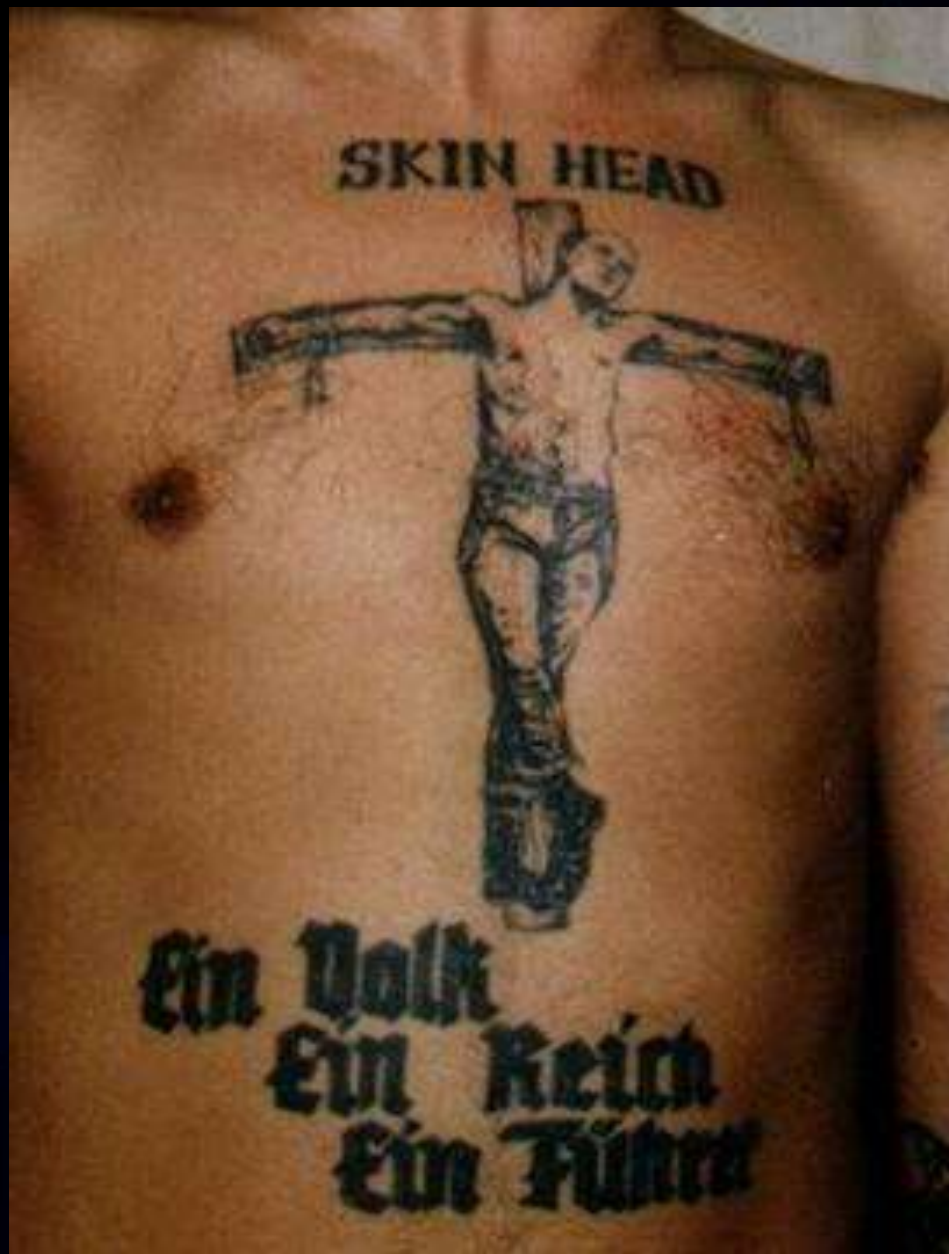






Odin's Cross



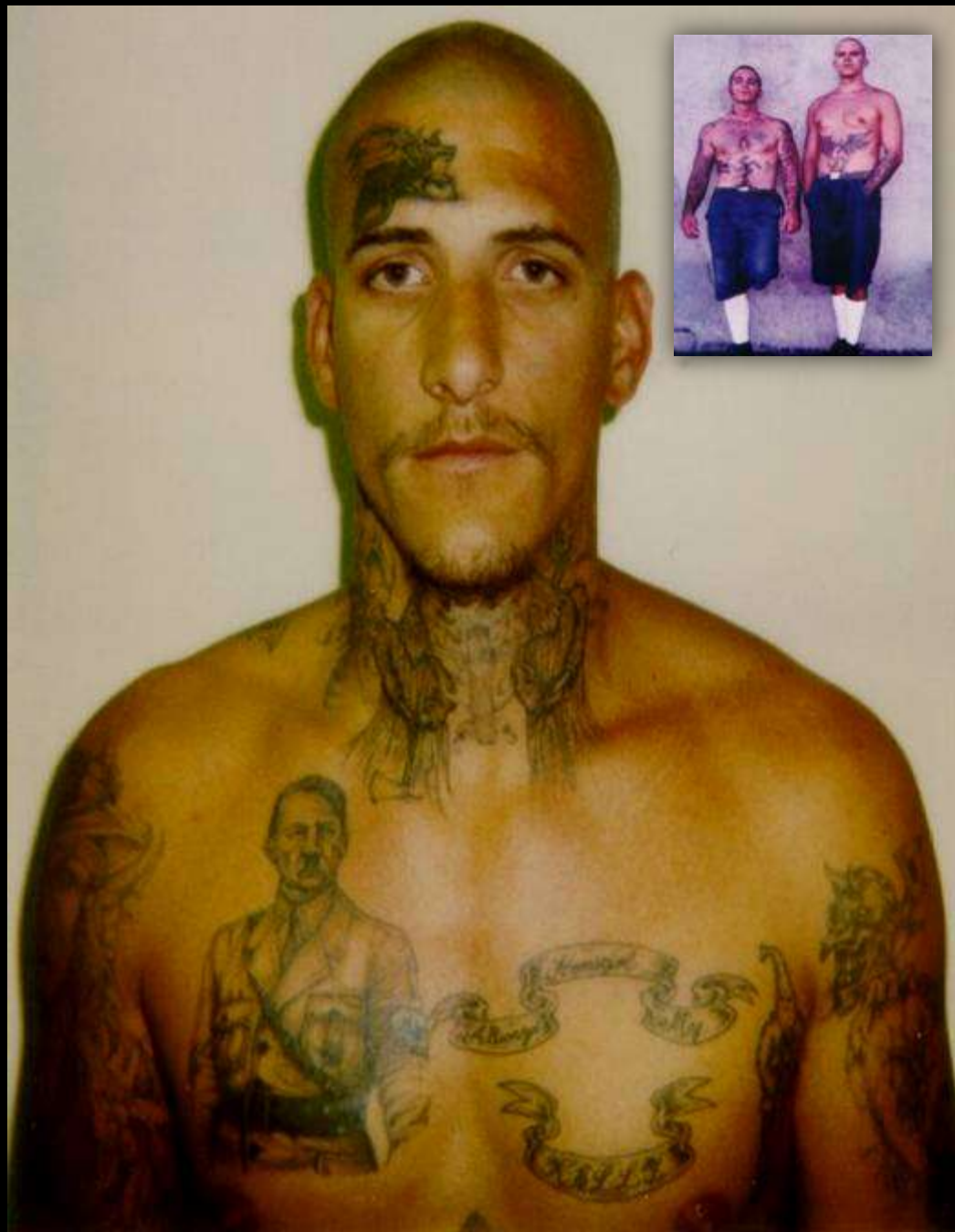


A People, A Reich, A Fuhrer



PENI - Public Enemy Number One





Ku Klux Klan





"Odin's Cross"
(International White Pride)

Othala Rune
(Represents Aryan Heritage)

Crossed Lighting Bolts

211 Crew (Colorado White
Supremist Prison Gang)

White Supremacist Tattoos

“**White Power**” spelled out in Germanic Runes



White Power

ƒ	u	þ	a	r	k	g	w
h	n	l	j	ī	p	z	s
t	b	e	m	l	ŋ	d	o



White Supremacist Tattoos



OC County - SWP

White Supremacist Numerical Tattoos

- "88" - Represents the letters "HH" or Hiel Hitler"
- "311" - Represents the letters "KKK" (Ku Klux Klan)
- "18" - Represents the Initials of Adolph Hitler. "A" & "H".
- "23" - Represents "W" the 23rd letter of the alphabet.
- "100%" - Expression of an individuals pure Aryan Heritage.
- "4/20" - Hitler's birthday.
- "4/19" - Anniversary date of two events: The Waco, Texas siege and the Oklahoma City Bombing.
- "14" - Meaning the "14 Words" (We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.)
- "5" - Meaning the five words "I have nothing to say"
- "RAHOWA" - Racial HOLY WAR
- "ORION" - "Our Race Is Our Nation"



NAZI LOW RIDERS



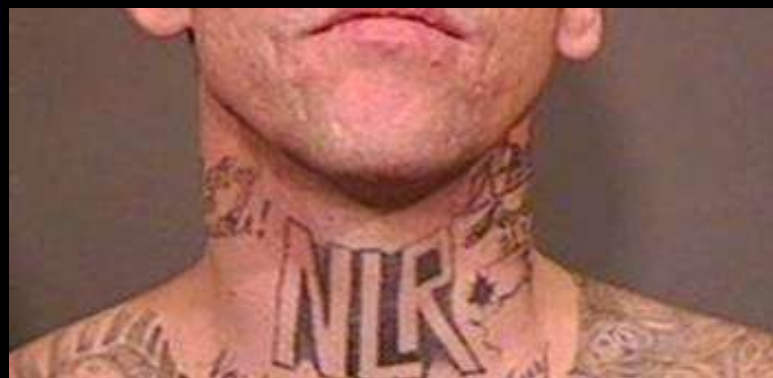
"Pure Hate"



"Die Hard-San Diego-Peckerwood"



Orange County
Supreme White Power





"White Anger"



"Ride"
Aka; Nazi Low Rider



Oi! is a working class street-level subgenre of punk rock that originated in the United Kingdom in the late 1970s.



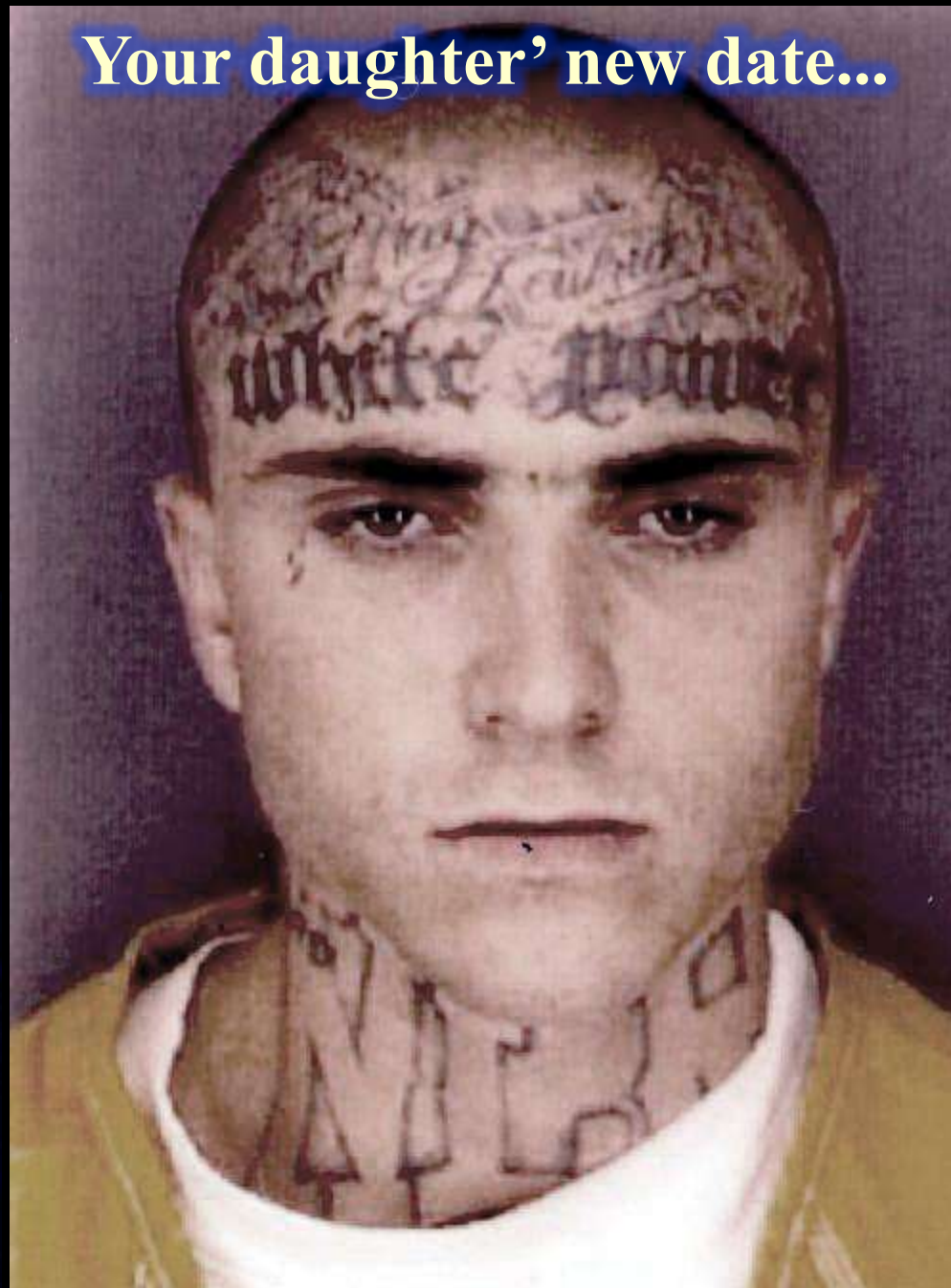
“O C” = Orange County

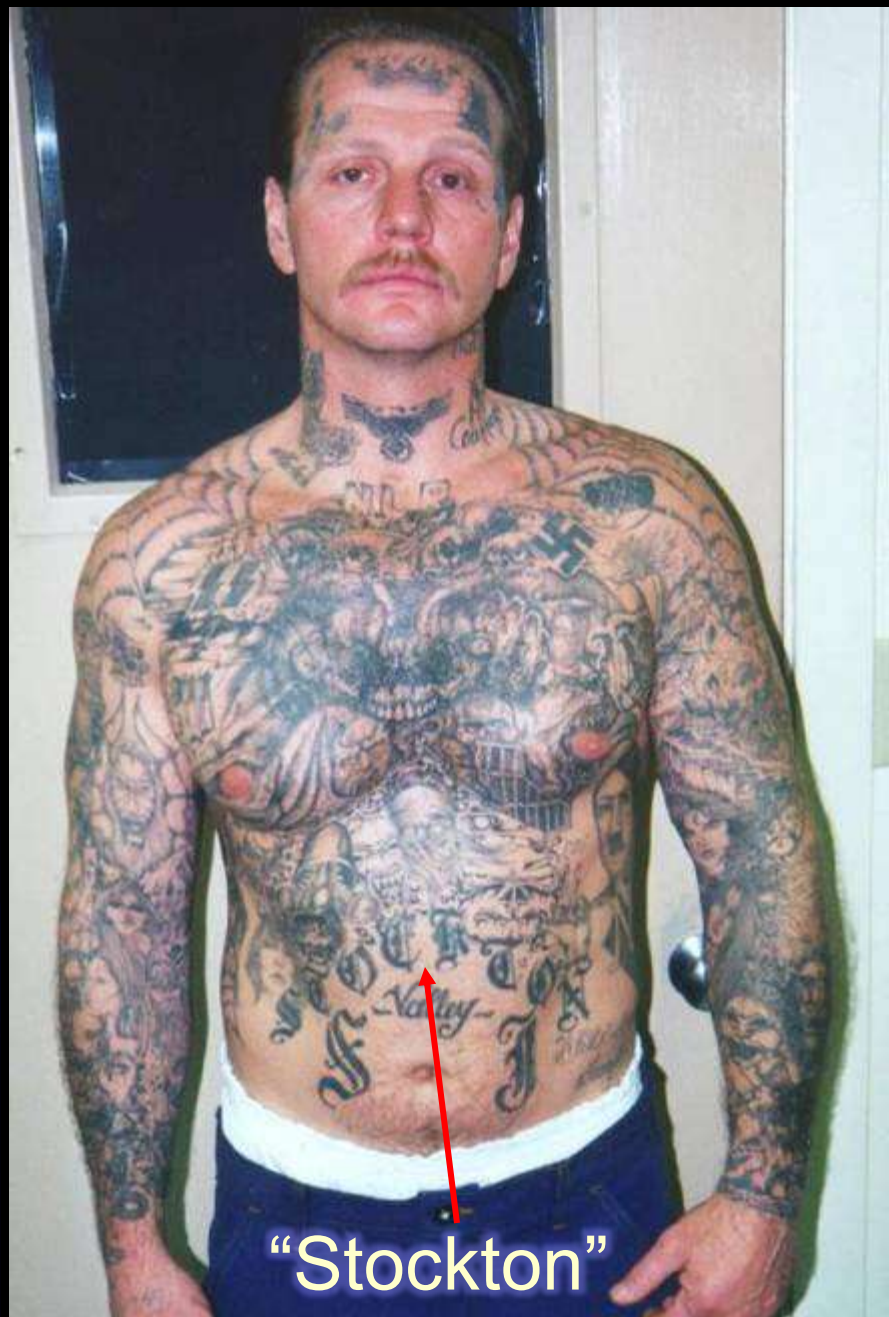


“Racial Loyalty”



Your daughter's new date...



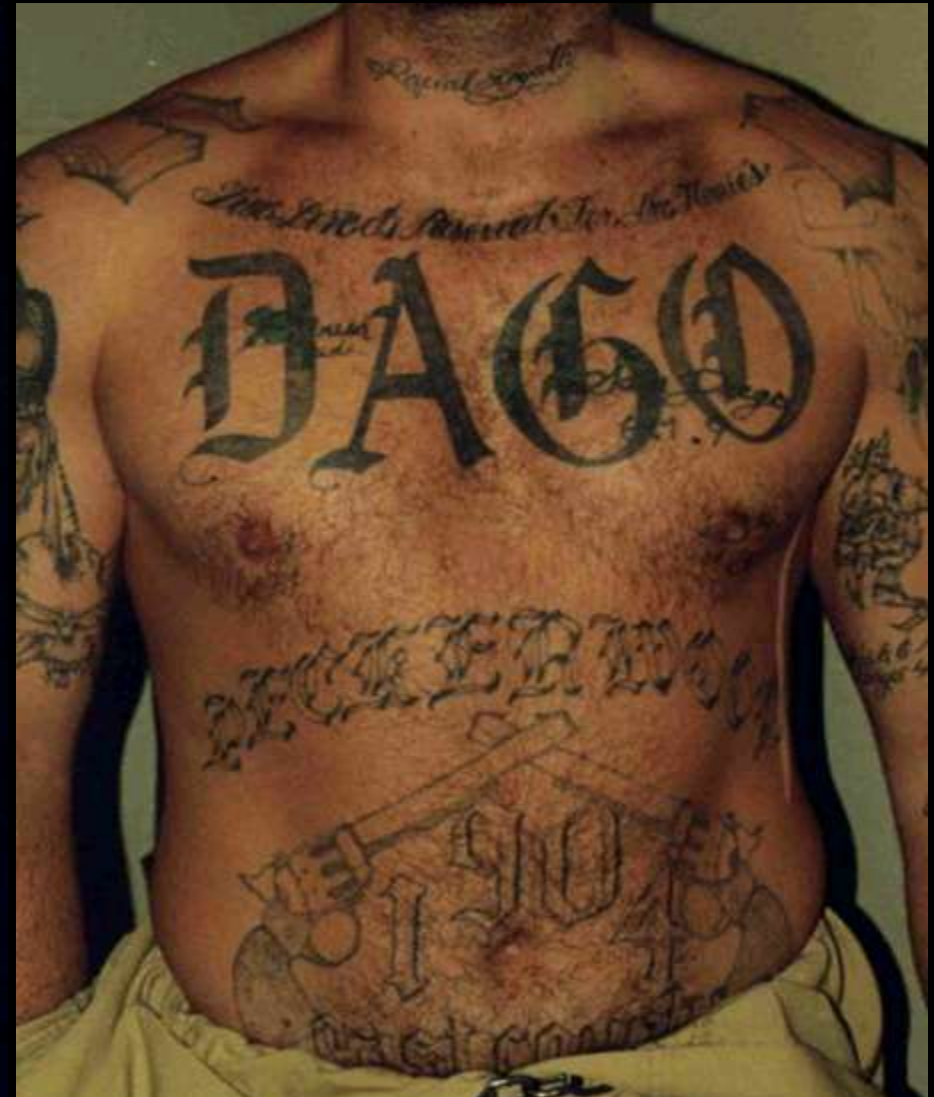
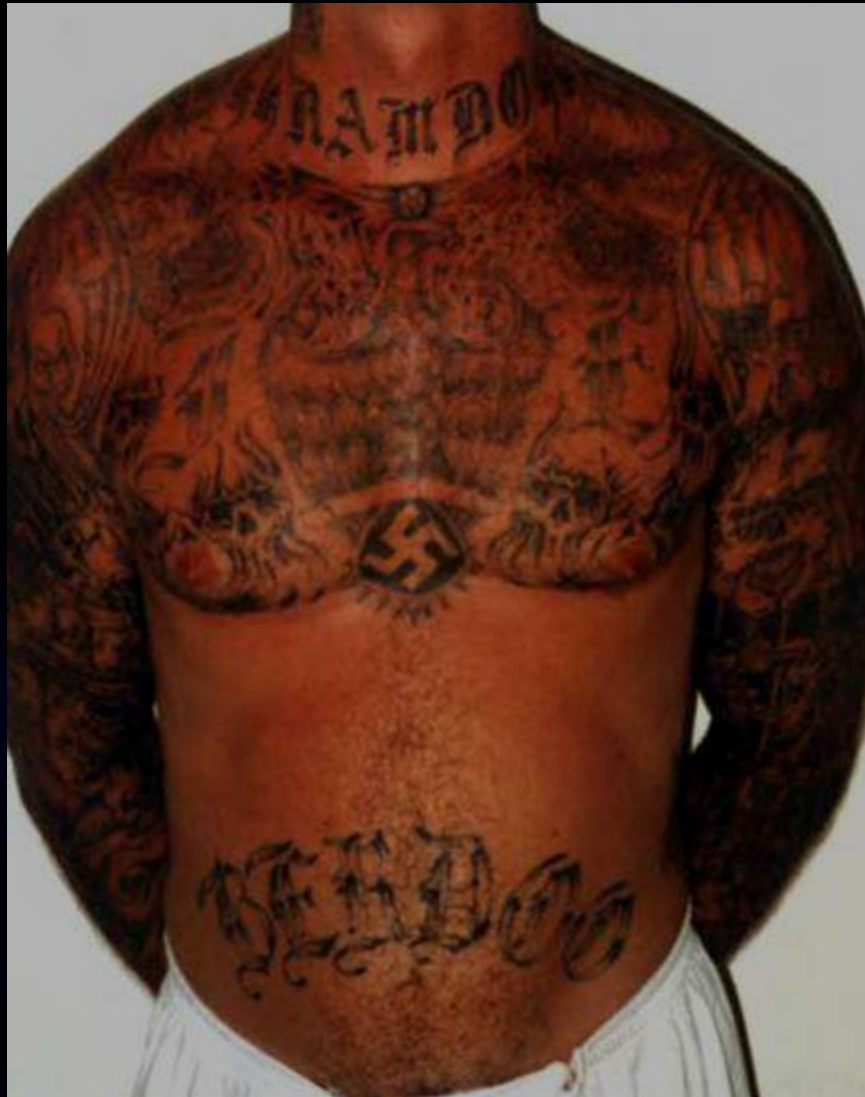


"Stockton"

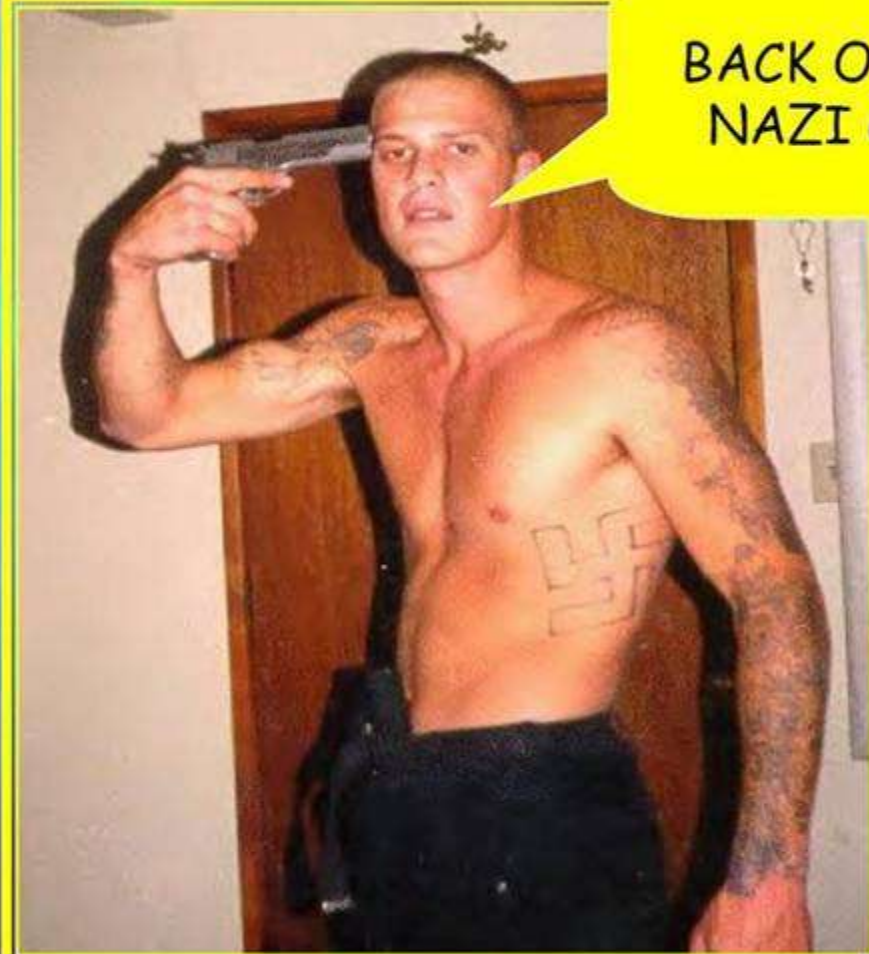


"Gangster"

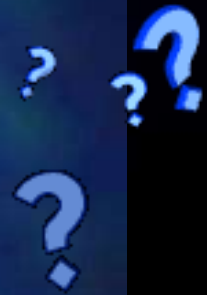
Tattoos sometimes abbreviated slang terms, i.e. ...
“Dago” = “San Diego” or “Berdo” = San Bernardino



NAZI HOSTAGE SITUATION



BACK OFF OR THE
NAZI GETS IT!!!



ARYAN BROTHERHOOD

Associated symbols include
"AB", "The Brand",
"Breeze", "Blue Birds", or
three leaf clovers



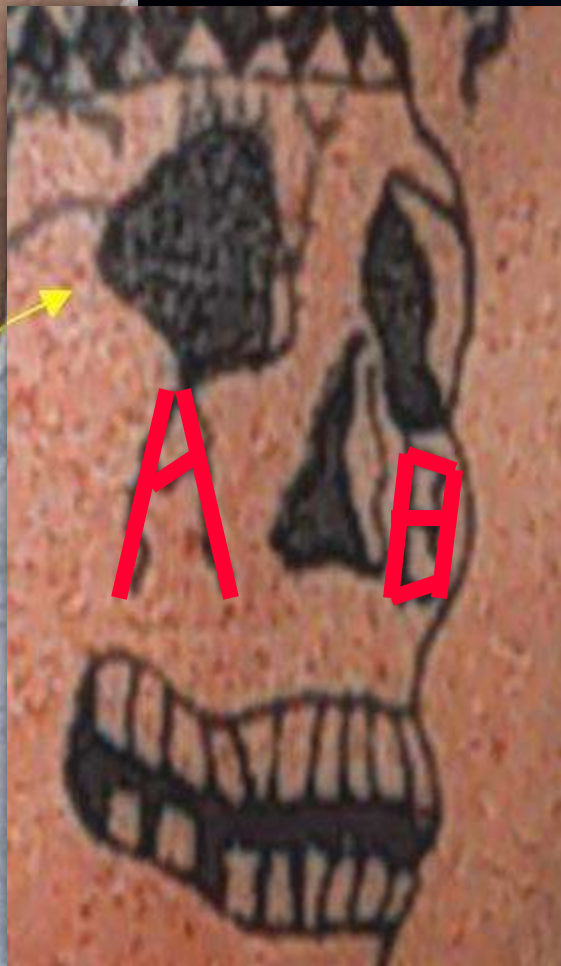
Three Leaf Clover



"Sinn Fein" is the political arm of the Irish Republican Army



ARYAN BROTHERHOOD





**Odinic Rite = Germanic
neopagan organization**



Arizona AB



White Supremacist Prison Gang

Aryan Circle

Lightning bolts enclosed in a circle indicates Aryan Circle



The patch number is sometimes used as a code name in correspondence



White Supremacist Prison Gang

COVERT TATTOOS - **Aryan Circle**



Covert Circle Tattoo = Aryan Circle Gang Member



White Supremacist Prison Gang

Does this make sense...Swastikas & 13?

1 & 3 = A & C (Aryan Circle)



White Supremacist Prison Gang

Texas Aryan Brotherhood

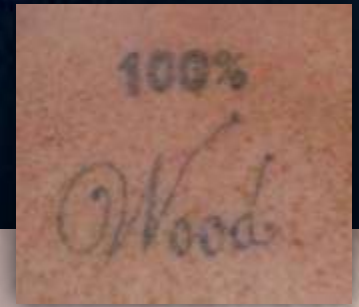
Live Hard Die Hard

I-II-XX = A B T



White Supremacist Prison Gang

United Aryan Soldiers



Peckerwood

JUGGALOS

Juggalo is a name given to fans of "Insane Clown Posse", a hip hop group.



"THE RINGMASTER" ONE OF MANY CHARACTERS FROM THAT THE JUGGALOS ASSOCIATE WITH.

THE HATCHETMAN TATTOO - THE MAIN JUGGALO SYMBOL





OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS



Often called "Colors", "Patch", or "Rocker"



"MC" = Motorcycle Club



"13" = "M" for Marijuana

"1%" = The one percent of motorcyclist who are considered outlaw bikers by the American Motorcycle Association



"Satan's Few/Nomad"

"Vagos"





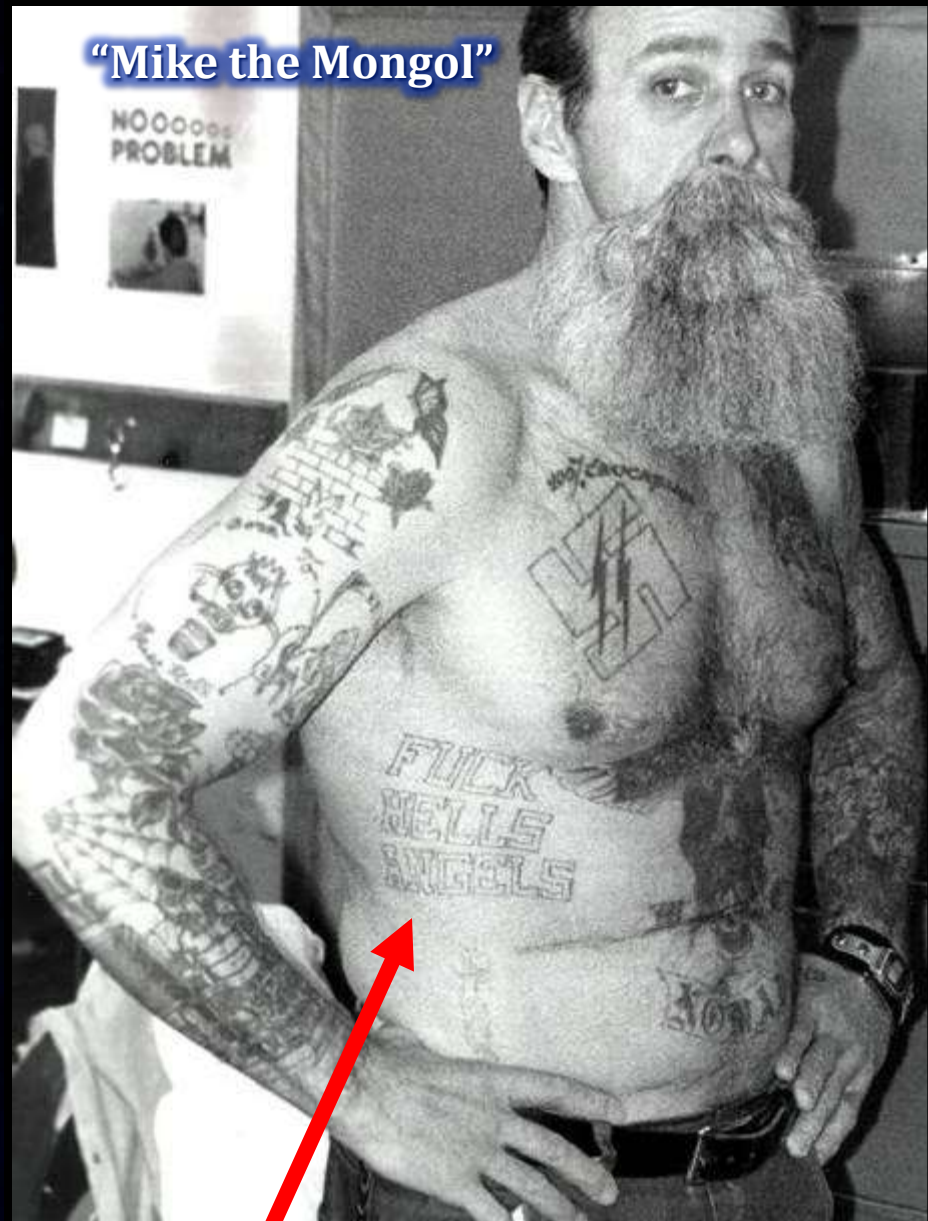
"OFFO" = "Outlaws Forever, Forever Outlaws"



"AFFA" = "Angels Forever, Forever Angels"



"VFFV" = "Vagos Forever, Forever Vagos"



"F _ _ _ the Hell's Angels"



FTW = Fk the World or Forever Two Wheels**



The "1%" signifies that the individual is a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang

Ex-Hells Angel



Note patch has been blackened out

Hell's Angel Motto: Three people will keep a secret if two are dead"

Outlaws Motto: "God forgives, Outlaw's don't"

Banditos Motto: "We are the people our parents warned us about"

HELL's ANGELS



“DEQUIALLO” SYMBOLIZES AN ACT OF VIOLENCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT



“DEATH HEAD”

HA CHAPTER ROCK



‘IN’ DATE AND ‘OUT’ DATE



MONGOLS



Mongols

Forever

Forever

Mongols

Live Mongols

Die Mongols



Mongols Motto: "Respect Few Fear None"

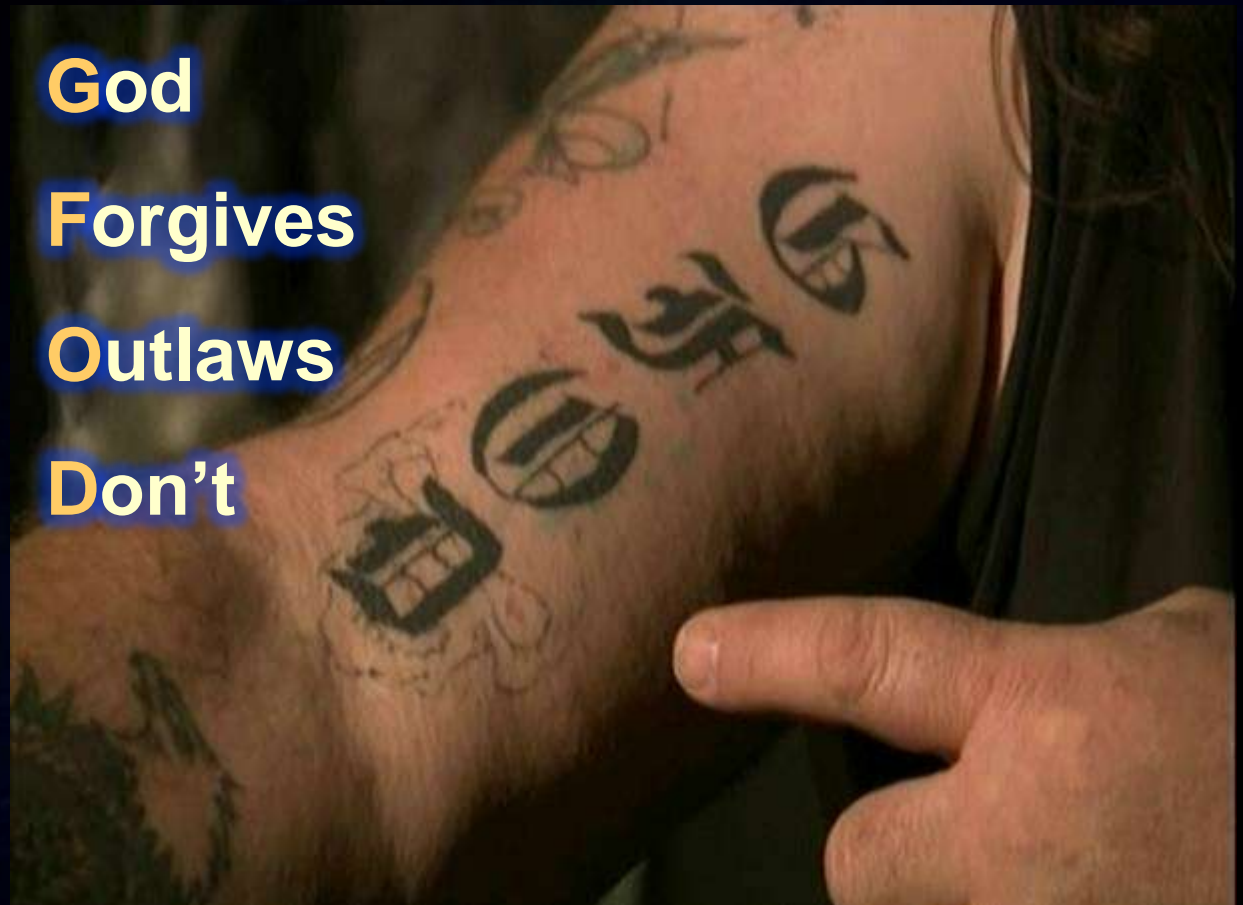
OUTLAWS



1%er



God
Forgives
Outlaws
Don't





- Angels Die In Outlaw States
- American Outlaw Association



VAGOS

Vagos associate with the color green and the number "22" which represents the 22nd letter of the alphabet "V".



Vagos Forever
Forever Vagos



Dice 2 & 2 = Vagos



Live Vagos Die Vagos



"Peligo" = Danger/Risk

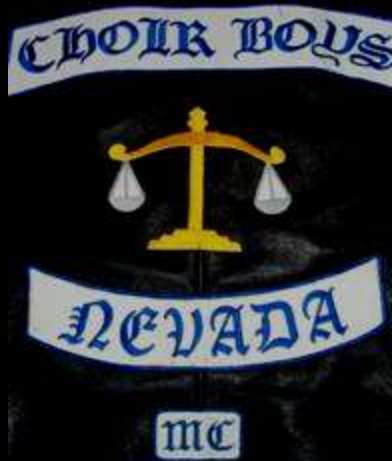
"MF" = Mother F%&ker



Angel of Death

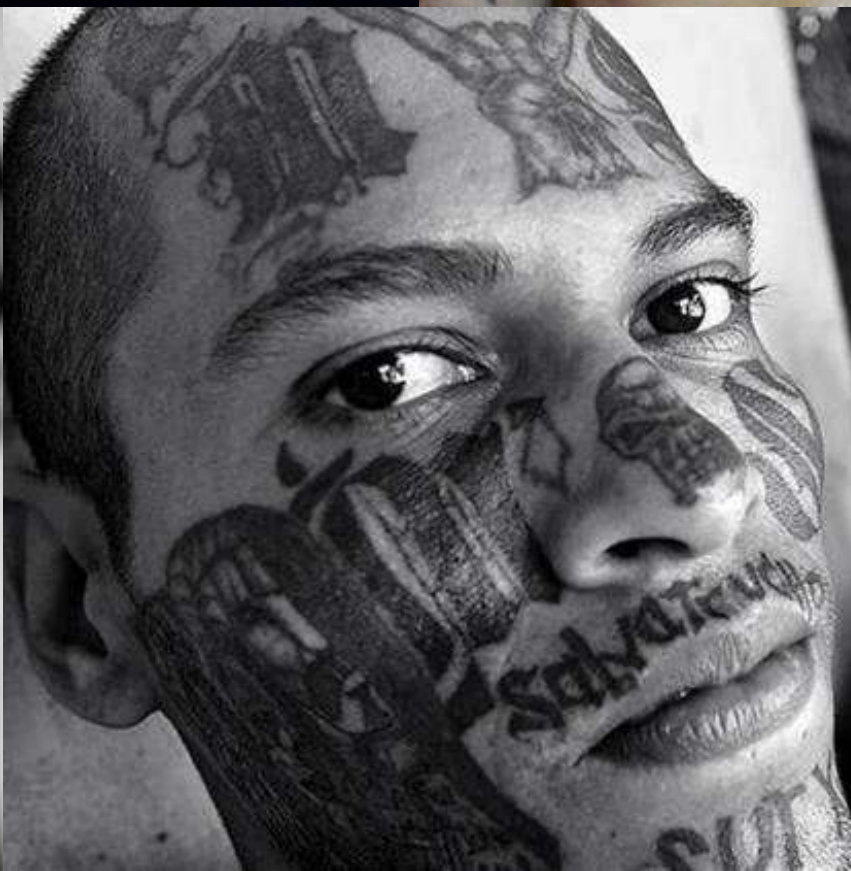
THE GOOD GUYS

Examples of Law Enforcement Friendly Motorcycle Clubs



HISPANIC GANGS

Hispanics prefer Old English Lettering and Aztec Lettering in there tattoos.



Surenos

“Sureno” or “Sur”, meaning South (Everything south of Bakersfield, California).

Surenos also associate with the term “Southsider” and the number “13”.

South

Side



Always lots of women in their tattoos



"Macho" Characters are often present



Aztec or Mayan symbols or
figures demonstrate a
Mexican heritage



MS-13 Tattoos



MSXIII = MS-13



Seen on Honduran MS-13 Members



Satanic Symbols used for intimidation



503 = El Salvador Area Code

MS-13 Tattoos



3CE = Pronounced in Spanish "trece" meaning 13



MSX3



Emese = Short for "Eme Ese" the spanish pronunciation of "MS"



Handsign for MS-13



Mara Savatrucha spelled out in Arabic

MS-13 Mayan Numeral Tattoos

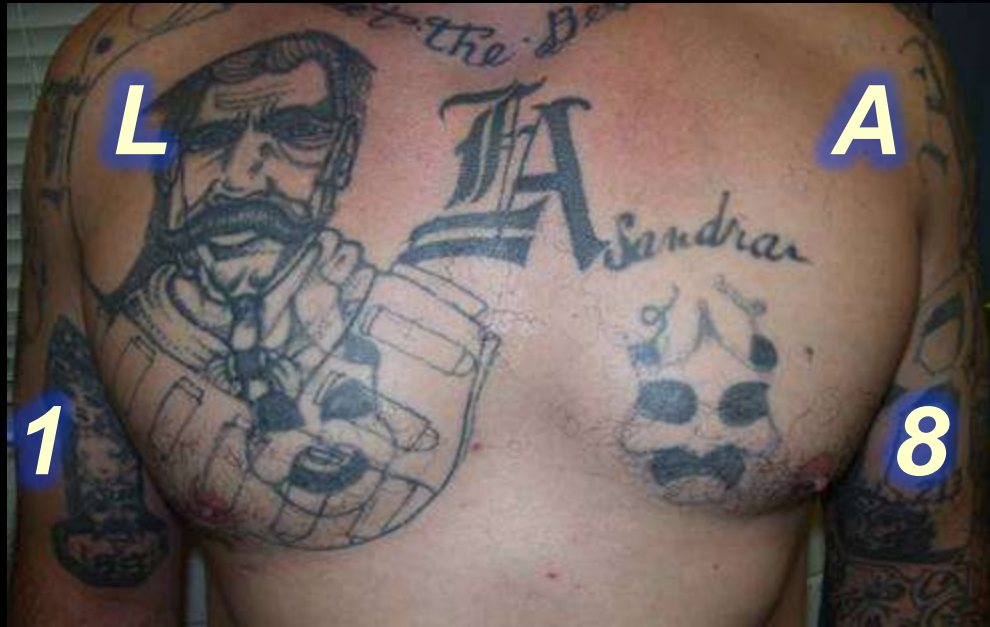


"YOGI" = Nickname



Gang Member's Initials

18th Street Gang



Diesiocho = Spanish for "eighteen"



Mayan #18



6 & 6 & 6 = 18



10 & 5 & 3 = 18

MI VIDA LOCA

"Three Dots" means "Mi vida loca" or "my crazy life" to Hispanics. If you are Cuban, this denotes you have been convicted of Larceny. If you are Asian it can mean "I care for nothing."



TEARDROP TATTOOS

A "Teardrop" tattoo can mean time served in county jail or the loss of a close friend. It is not a Hispanic specific tattoo.



"LAUGH NOW, CRY LATER"



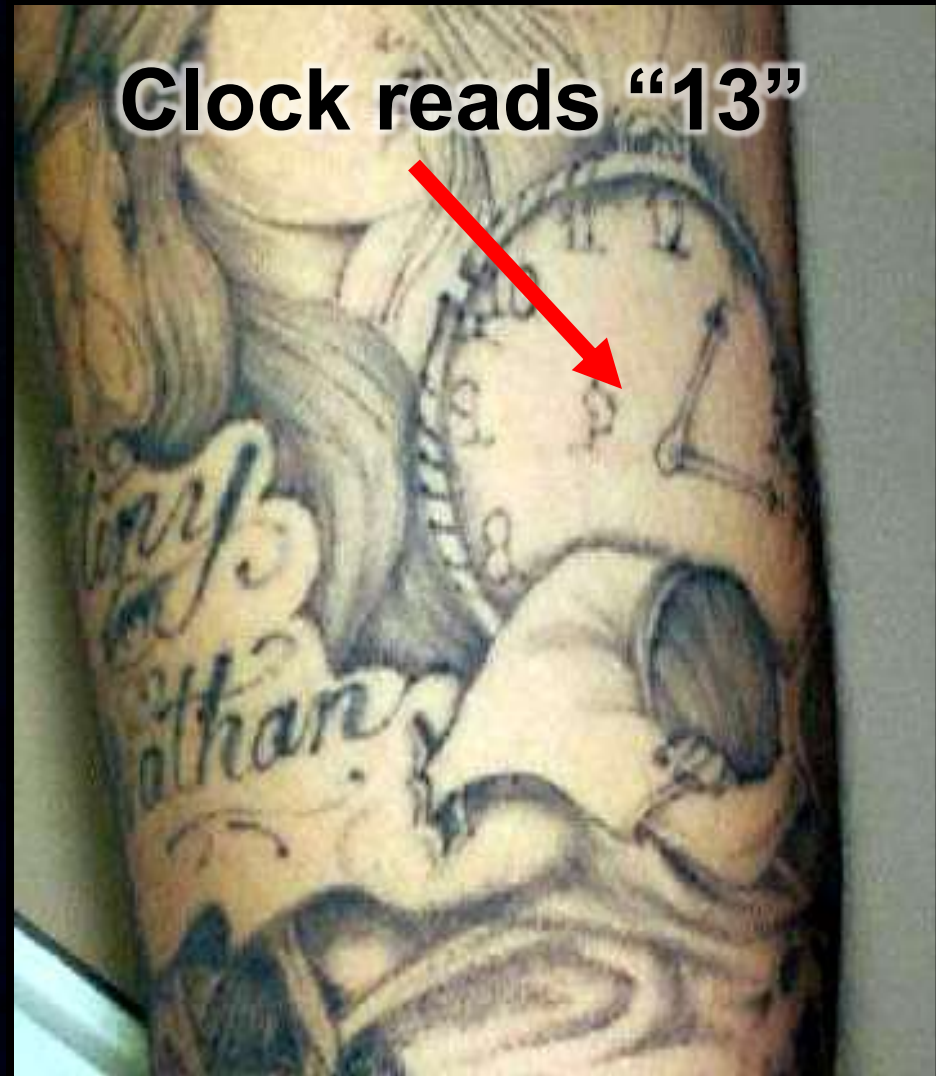
"M & M" = Code for Mexican Mafia?

Jail Bars & Keyholes indicate time served,
attached numbers mean the year(s) served.



Clocks, hour glasses, & spider webs indicate serving time in prison.

Clock reads "13"



Guard Towers are used to reference the specific prison they did time in.



Folsom State Prison



EIGHTBALL TATTOO

The "Eightball" means hardluck

Duce(2) & Ace(11) = 13



Pachuco Cross

The Pachuco Cross is a cross surrounded by three small rays or dashes and is usually placed on the left hand crease between the thumb and forefinger. It has a religious meaning in that the cross symbolizes death and resurrection while the three rays represent each of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



G - Shield

Some inmates report that the “G-Shield” is the first step towards moving up to the status of “Carnal” in the Mexican Mafia. The design originates from the Aztecs and is a symbol associated with power and warrior status.

It may also mean that a “Carnal” is sponsoring this individual for membership. Allegedly if the colors within the shield are reversed the individual has completed missions for the Mexican Mafia.



Step One



Step Two (Colors Reversed)

"S F V" means San Fernando Valley



Broken "Shackles"



12th Street "Sharkies"
Pomona, Ca



"Surreno Flag" of Colorado



**Covert Gang
Handsign**



"Power"



"Trust No Man"



"Trust No One"

Los Zetas

**Mexican Drug Trafficking
Organization Soldiers**

Los Zeta Tattoo

“Los Juniors”

Possible Los Zeta Identifiers:



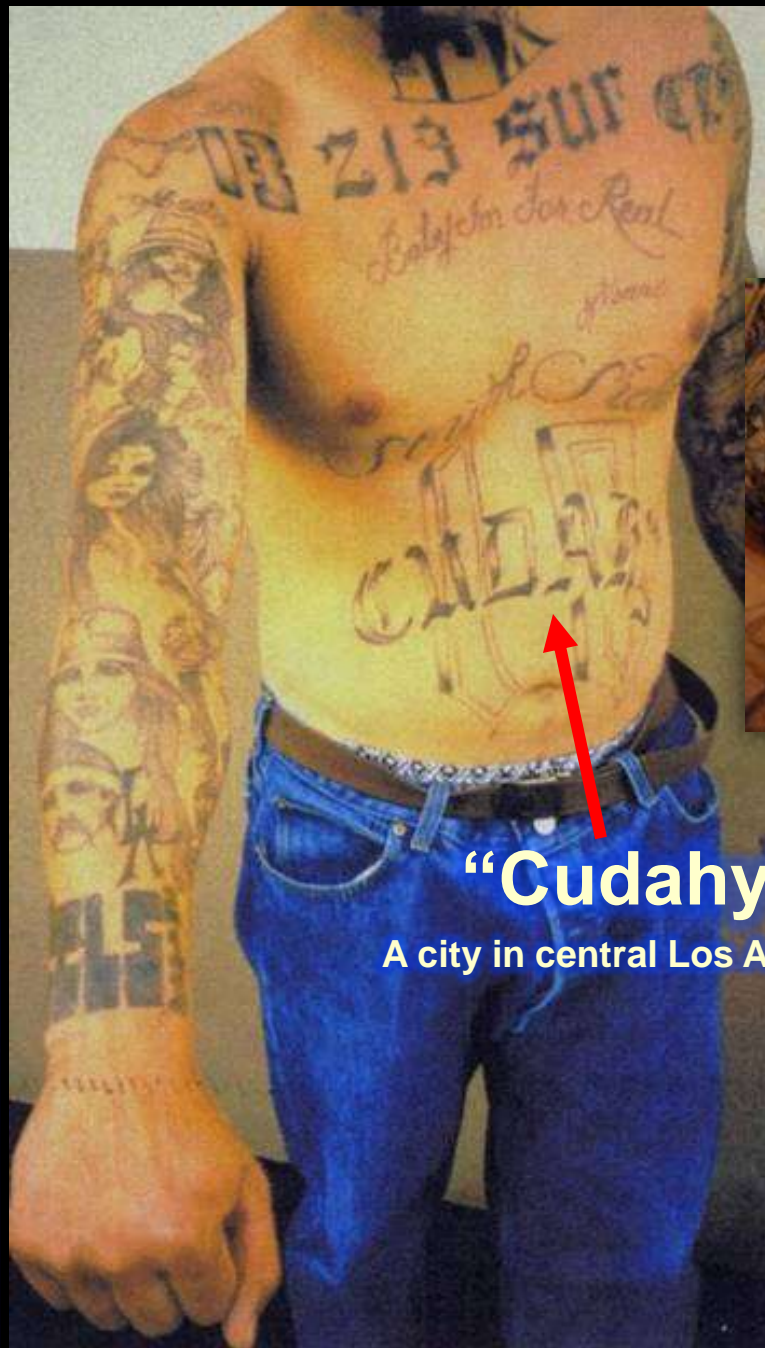
Can you see the secret code?



*Barrio Azteca uses "BA" or
the number "21."*

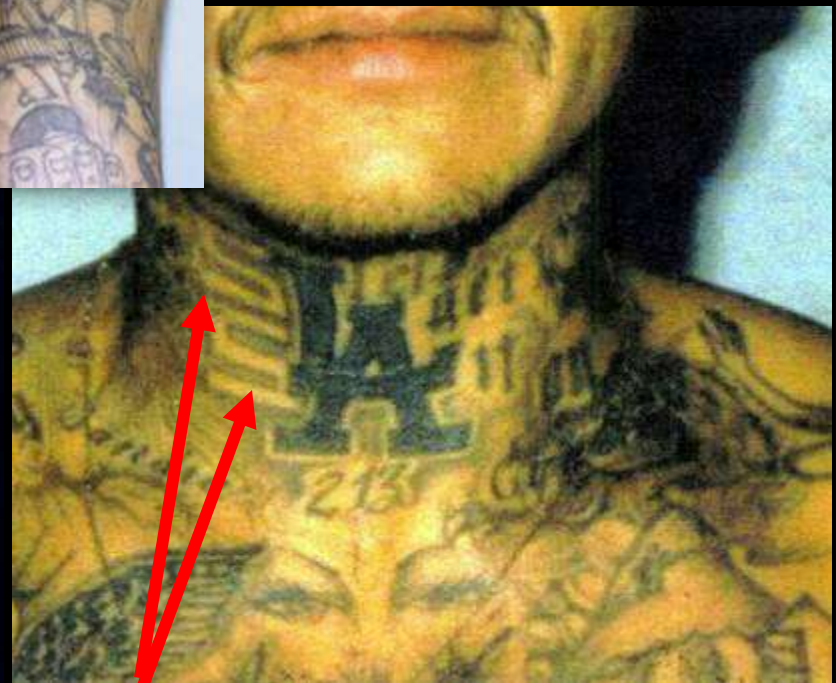
Many Hispanic inmates who are not gang members may have some form of the Holy Virgin Mary tattooed on them





“Cudahy”

A city in central Los Angeles



“SS” = “South Sider”

BULLDOGS



Large Fresno Gang



Paw Prints



Norteños

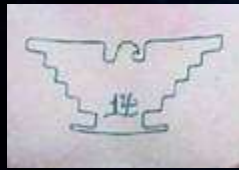
"Nortenos" are Hispanics who identify with Northern California, north of Bakersfield and associate with the number 14 and the color red.



NORTEÑOS



NORTEños



THE HUELGA BIRD, (PRONOUNCED "WELL-GHA) TAKEN FROM CESAR CHAVEZ'S MEXICAN-AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, IS USED BY NORTHERNERS TO IDENTIFY THEIR NORTHERN ROOTS.



FIVE POINT STAR, OR "NORTHERN STAR", SYMBOLIZES THE NORTHERN ROOTS OF THE NORTENOS. STAR IS MOST OFTEN IN RED AND/OR BLACK INK



TEXAS SYNDICATE

"TS" = "Texas Syndicate" A large Texas based Hispanic Prison Gang



The twentieth and nineteenth letters
of the alphabet (TS).

Tri-City Bombers

(Texas)



Tango Blasters (Texas)

2

10

$2 \times 10 = 20 = T$ (Tango)



NUESTRA FAMILIA

"N F" = Nuestra Familia is a large Hispanic prison gang headquartered in Northern California (Nortenos). Northern Structure (NS), and Nuestra Raza (NR) are offshoots of the Nuestra Familia.

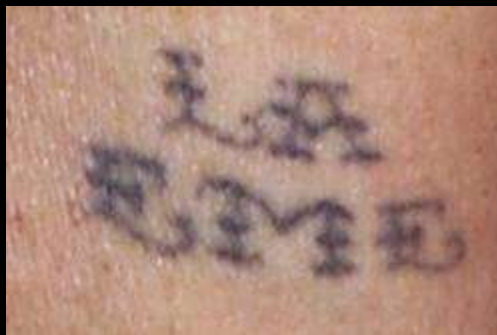


Huelga (Well-Gah) Norteno War Bird

MEXICAN MAFIA

The Mexican Mafia is a large prison gang that identifies with the letters "Eme" = "La Familia"

La Eme consider themselves Sureños and identify with the number 13. Their symbols include a black bloody hand and a eagle with a captured snake.



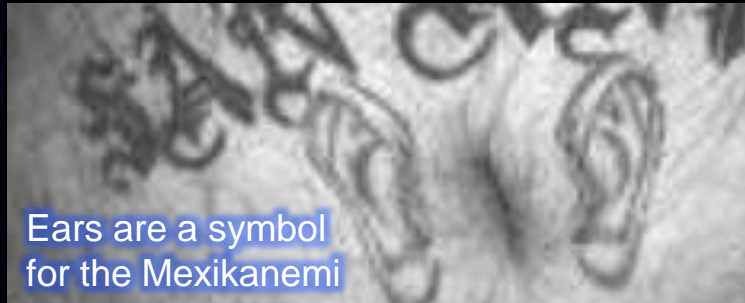
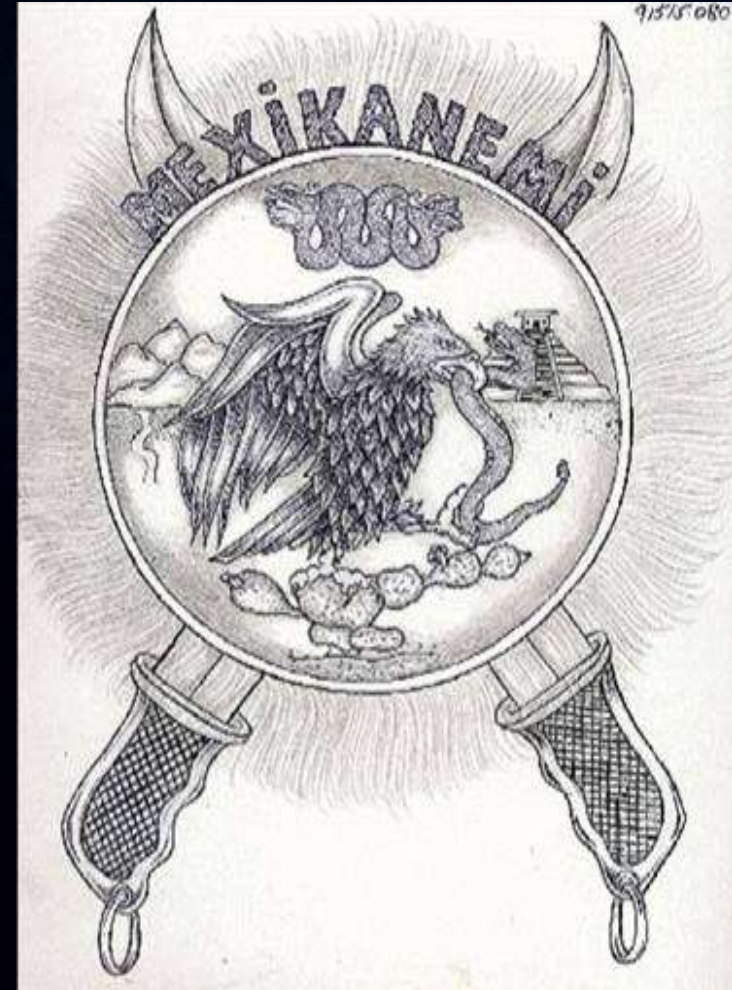
MEXICAN MAFIA



Oklahoma Eme

Texas Mexican Mafia (Mexikanemi) Prison Gang

The Texas Mexican Mafia (Mexikanemi) have tattoos composed of crossed swords and a circle framing a eagle with a snake in it's mouth. The primary difference between there logo and the California EME is that they include Crossed Swords in there background.



Ears are a symbol
for the Mexikanemi

Original Arizona Mexican Mafia

Original Arizona EME Tat

There are two fractions of Mexican Mafia in Arizona; the Original Mexican Mafia and the New Mexican Mafia.

The Original Arizona Mexican Mafia is a branch off the California Mexican Mafia.

They have both been at war with each other ever since the new Arizona Mexican Mafia split from original gang in the early 1980's.

Original Arizona Mexican Mafia Members wear a specific tattoo consisting of two M's with a skull with bat wings. A rose may also be present.



New Arizona Mexican Mafia

The New Arizona Mexican Mafia will wear a sun tattoo with two M's crossing the bottom. The tattoo may also include a skull.



New Mexican Mafia "Dragon Tattoos" ?



In January 2009, California DOC obtained information from an inmate source indicating federal Mexican Mafia (EME) members may be utilizing tattoos of dragons to differentiate themselves from California EME members. According to the source, the actual meaning of the dragon is, "Chasing Drugs" or "Chasing Money." Several federal EME members have been identified with this tattoo.

Peseta or "25" Tattoos

Pesetas or "two-five" refer to Hispanic Prison Gang drop-outs who were placed in protective custody – "PC". These letters (PC) in Spanish are pronounced "Pe" & "Ce". The general population inmates would refer to these PC inmates as "pecetas".

The word peceta is also a Spanish word for quarter (the coin). Thus, PC=peceta=quarter=25. As time went on these PC (25) inmates started to band together and took "25" as their banner name.



"Border Brothers" - Hispanics from south of the US Border



"22" = "BB"
or Border Brother



Paisas (*Los Paisanos*) Tattoos

Prison Based Organized Mexican Nationals

XVI = 16 = "P"



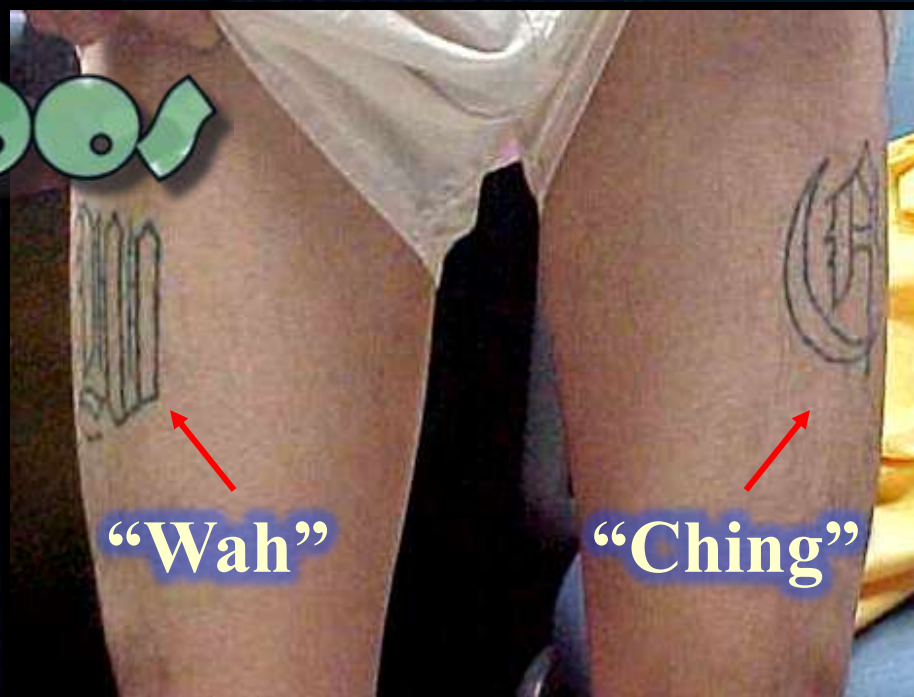


ASIAN TATTOOS



ASIAN TATTOOS

Expect to see lots
of Dragons and Tigers



OKB = Oriental Killer Boys

ASIAN TATTOOS



"LAOS" a Asian country



Hmong

HNS = Hmong Nation Society

Hmong are from southern China and adjacent areas of Vietnam & Laos.

ASIAN TATTOOS

"Vietnam"

TTTT = Four "T's"

Tien Tinh Tu Toi

Money Love Prison Crime

Three dots, but done with a burning cigarette



ASIAN TATTOOS



ASIAN TATTOOS

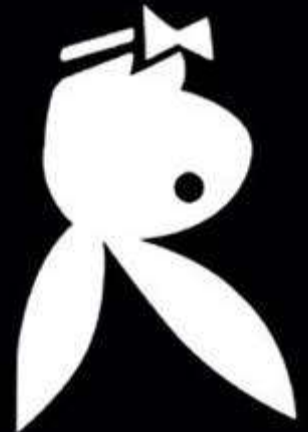


Filipino Script "Bahala Na Alibata" meaning
"Come What May - Family First"

Tiny Rascals Gang (Cambodian)



Many Asian gang members use numbers based on how they look, not based on sequence. So '7' looks like T, '12' looks like R, and '6' looks like G.



Playboy Bunny turned upside down represents the letter "R" for Rascal.



T

Tongan

4

4 (Four)

L

Life

ASIAN TATTOOS

ASIAN TATTOOS

父母恩

GRATITUDE TO MY PARENTS

不信無人

DON'T TRUST NO MAN

不信人

TRUST NO MAN

寧死不屈

RATHER DIE THAN SURRENDER

今生無悔

THIS LIFE WITH NO REGRETS

ASIAN TATTOOS

黑龍

BLACK DRAGONS

竹聯

UNITED BAMBOO

華青

WAH CHING

四海

FOUR SEAS

西聯

CHI LIN

YAKUZA

"Japanese Mob"



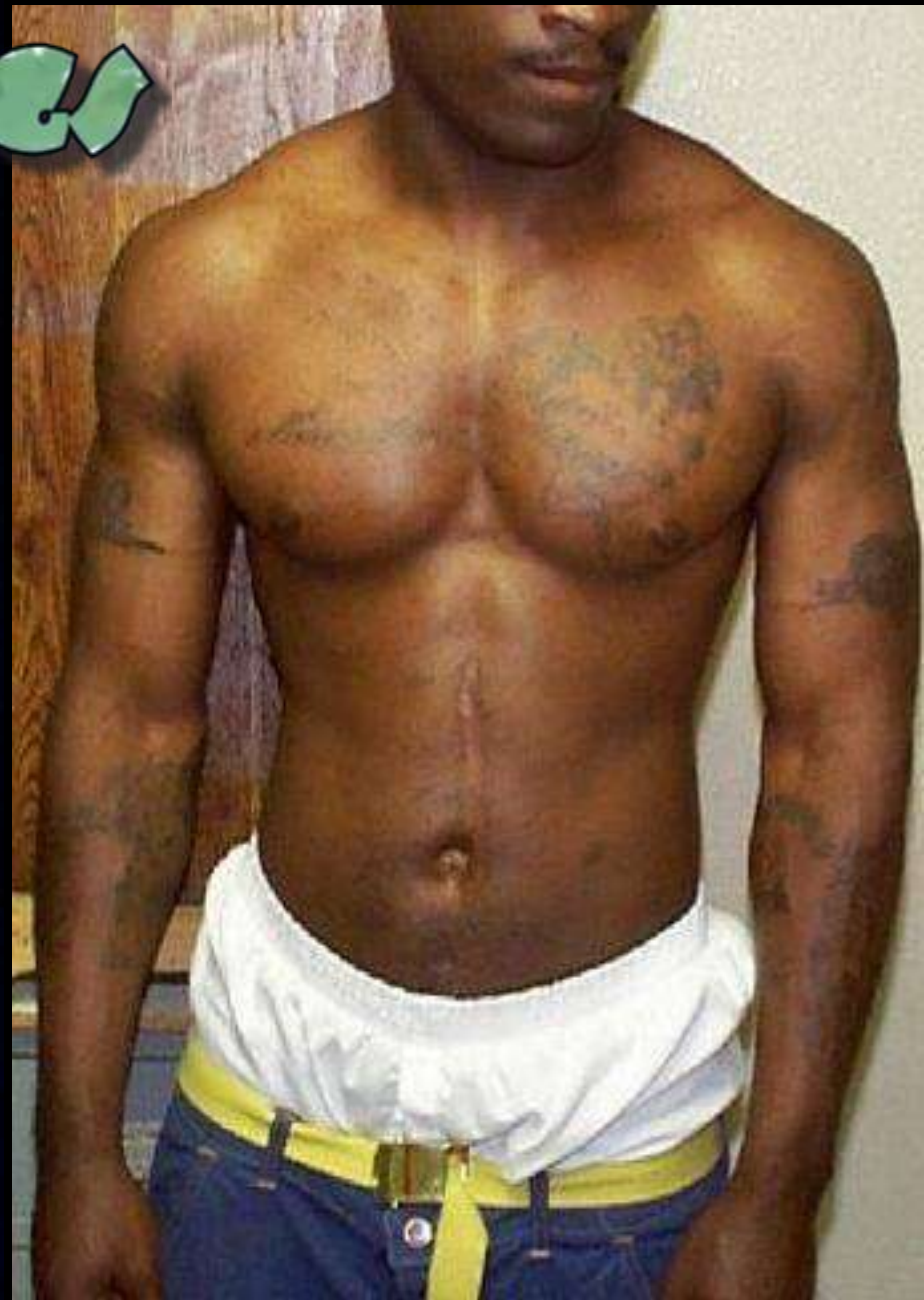
The Yakuza do not have a single distinguishing tattoo, instead they favor colorful full body tattoos that flow seamlessly around the body

A photograph of a group of young Black men in a crowd, possibly at a concert or festival. They are wearing various clothing, including hats and patterned shirts. Some are making hand gestures, such as the 'rock on' or 'devil horns' sign. The image has a slightly blurred, candid feel. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text 'BLACK GANGES' in a large, stylized, green font with a black outline and a slight 3D effect.

BLACK GANGES

BLACK GANGS

Expect to see lots of
dollar signs, playboy
bunnies, top hats, pitch
forks, crescent moons,
and guns



“\$ Money \$”



“Player”

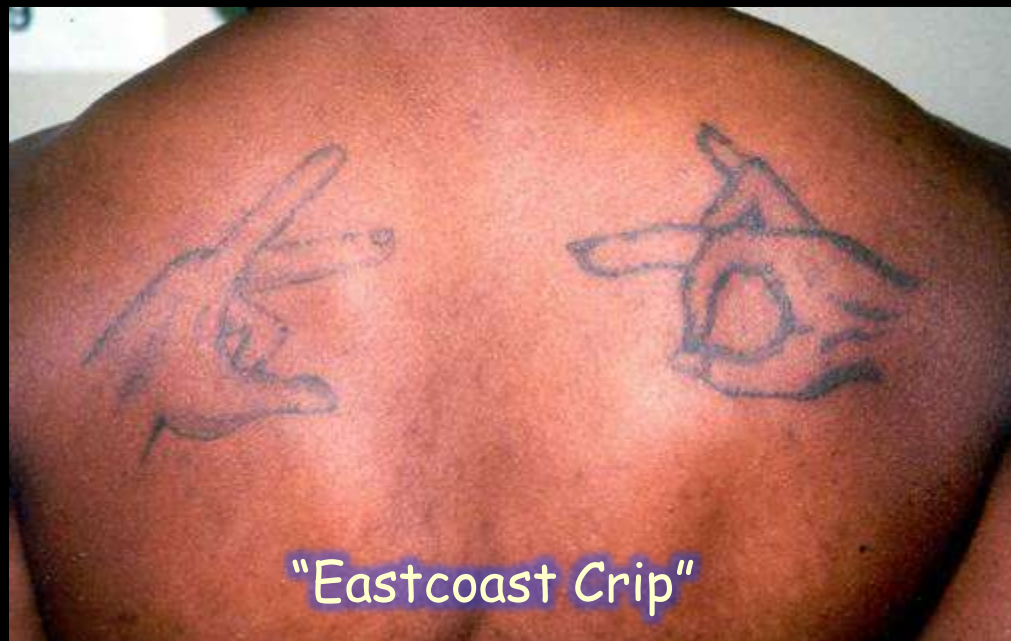


“ \$ ”



“Crescent Moon
& Star”





"Eastcoast Crip"



"Thug Nigger 4 Life"



"Grim Reaper"



"Bunny"



"Neighborhood Crip
Rollin 60's"

“Neighborhood Crip”

“BK” = “Blood Killer”



“21st Long Beach Insane Crips”



“P-funk” is this
inmate’s street name

People Nation Crown



Crip handsign

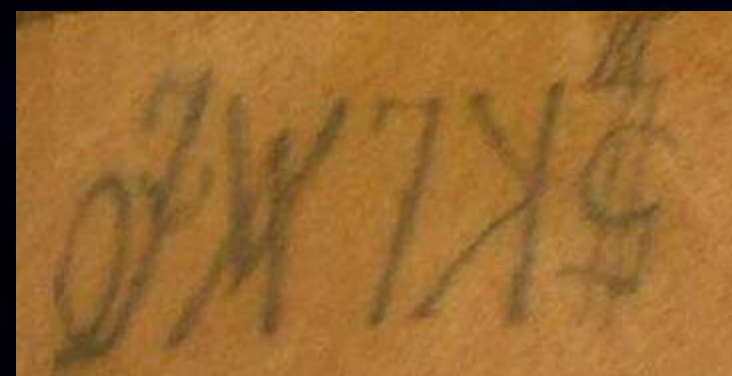
Gang members will often use there
hand sign in a tattoo

Traditional East Coast Street Gangs can be generally divided into two distinct alliances; they are either “People” or “Folks”. The “Disciples Nation” and affiliates make up the Folks alliance and the “Vice Lord Nation” and there affiliates make up the People Alliance. The west coast **Crips** have aligned with the **Folks** and the west coast **Bloods** have aligned with the **People**.





Hoover Crip from Texas



F O L K S



Blood



BGD 360 Degrees
of Knowledge



Pitchforks Up/Canes Down

6 Pointed Star

GD = Gangster Disciple



Huntington Park Brims



"B" Bloods



Crip Killer



People Nation Tattoos



Folks Tattoos



Blood Killer



CRIP



CUZZ

United Blood Family

Inmate's Name

UNITED BLOODS

Deciphered from recovered Gang Code Cipher



GKB = Gangster Killer Blood



**MOB = Member of Bloods
aka "Money over Bitches"**



West Blood

Eye for an Eye

Lewis Park Blood Gang

Homie's Intials
who passed away



Crips will avoid the letter combination "ck" and will substitute it with "cc". This is because they find it disrespectful to spell anything with the letter combination "ck" (Crip Killer)

BLOOD Tattoos



"Mr CK Rider"



"GFBD" = God Forgives Bloods Don't



"LA Van Ness Gangster Brims"



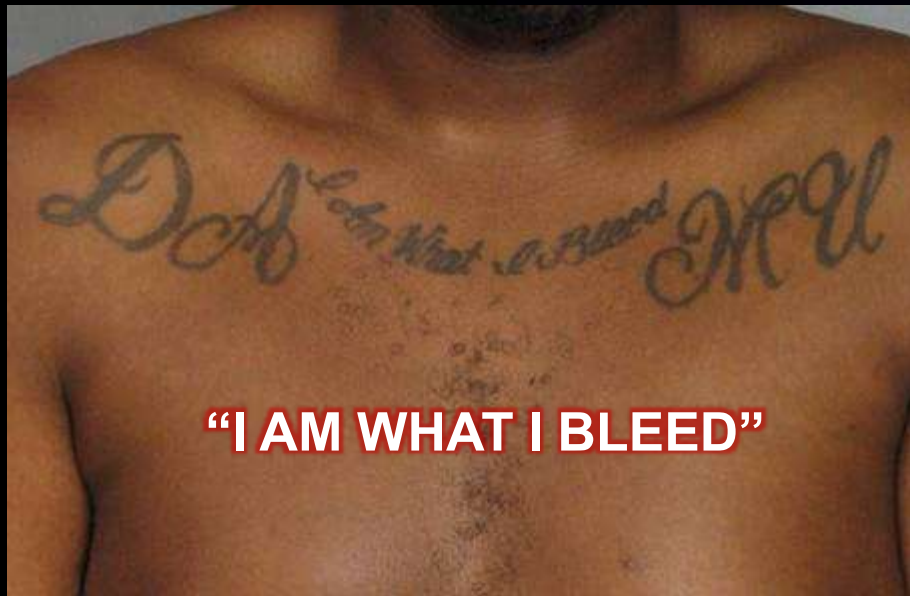
**"CRIPS" bleeding
"BLOODS"**



"DAWG"



"DAWG Paw"



"I AM WHAT I BLEED"

"DAMU" - SWAHILI FOR BLOOD



B l o o d



Member of Bloods or Money Over Bitches



Pay Close Attention to Numbers



612= FAB

(Fourth Avenue Blood)

6=F 1=A 2=B

2126= UZ

(Underworld Zilla)

21= U 26= Z

(Blood 13/13 Code)

Blood Gangs, including Norteno Gang Members are using the 13/13 Code to covertly communicate. Basically, they split the alphabet in half and substitute the corresponding letter. For example, "O" would transcribe to the letter "B". In this example, the tattoo reads "OYBBQ" which transcribes to the word "Blood".

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z



BLOOD

RULE

Hidden Codes – Blood Gang Tattoos (NYC)

Usually found on right arm – tattooed or burned on. Configuration represents a different NYC Blood Gang Set.

Blood Stone Villains



5-9 Brims



Gangsta Killer Bloods



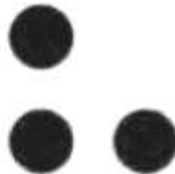
Nine Trey Gangsters



Mad Dog Bloods



Valentine Bloods



Gangsta Miller Bloods



1-8 Trey Gangstas



Mad Stone Bloods



Sex, Money, Murder



This Deaf Inmate has the letters “Two 7 Six” tattooed on his back using the American Sign Language. 276 translates to BGF or Black Guerilla Family.

Note: Latin Kings Crown



BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY

The BGF is a Black Prison Gang
with a political agenda

"276" = "BGF"



"Can't Stop, Won't Stop"



BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY

In addition to "BGF" and "276", the BGF also likes to have Silverback Gorilla Tattoos to show allegiance to the gang.



Also look for "Ball & Chain" Tattoos



BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY



In January 2009, California State Prison Investigators report that BGF members have been observed sporting a new tattoo believed to represent the BGF. The tattoo consists of a dragon above the Bay area bridge. Prison staff have also confiscated a drawing of the this new BGF identifier.





AFRICAN NATION ORGANIZATION

Also called "Kumi" or "415" (San Francisco area code)

Mandingo Warrior

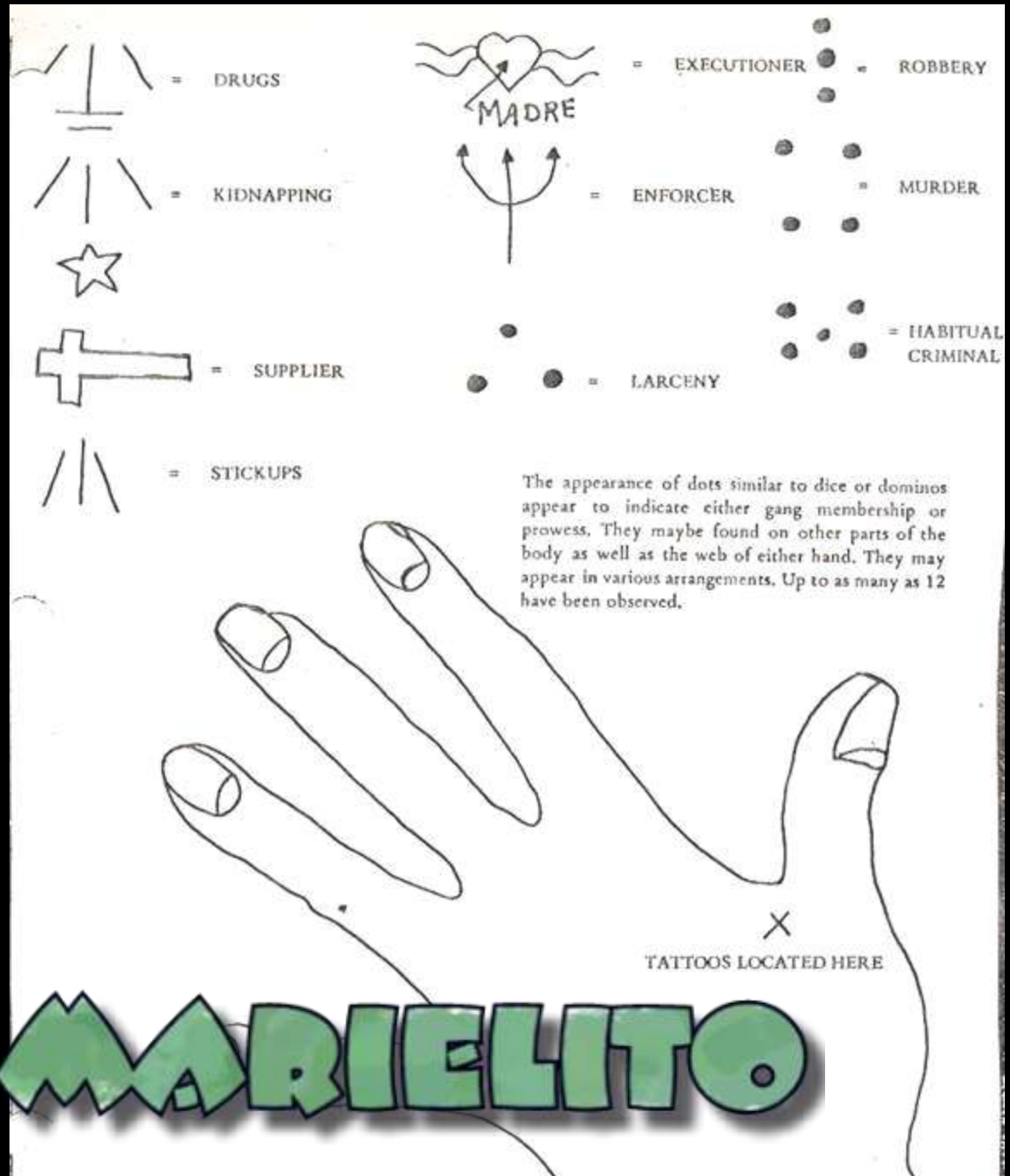


Cuban Marielitos are Cuban Nationals that came over from Cuba during a huge boatlift in 1982. Most Marielitos were criminals in there native Cuba.



CUBAN

MARIELITO



Phone Pad Number Substitution



378



NOTHING TO LOSE
FSU
EVERYTHING TO GAIN

Sometimes tattooed numbers are used to substitute letters from a simple phone pad. In this example “378” on the phone pad equals “FSU” (Friends Stand United) which is a Straight Edge Gang in Boston.



F

S

U

Native American Tattoos

Several Native American “disruptive groups” have organized such as the Savages, Native Pride, and the Warrior Society. These inmates may have tattoos of different symbols like medicine wheels, buffalos, bull horns, arrowheads, and feathers.

The number of feathers allegedly indicates major crimes committed. The “feathers” will be connected to a shield. The Barrio Azteca Prison Gang also uses feathers to indicate crimes committed.



Native American Tattoos

Native Pride is a Native American Gang from the Pacific Northwest



"Red Power"



Medicine Wheel

Native Pride Tattoos

The medicine wheel with the two feathers is the first tattoo they get for doing work for the gang. The feathers need to be shaded in before they mean anything. Arrow head tattoos with the medicine wheel inside are awarded for “work” in the prison after one has already received their feather tattoo. Each arrowhead tattoo represents a different “assignment” completed. The bear claw tattoo represents some type of leadership status within the gang.

New Mexico DOC



Mystery Tattoo????

Native American Inmate - NFD

- In September 2009, a Native American Inmate in a North Dakota Department of Corrections lock-up was discovered with a very unusual tattoo that had not been seen by gang investigators.
- Thinking the tattoo was some type of new prison gang symbol they asked for assistance from fellow gang investigators from around the country.
- A expert on Native American Culture from the US Department of Indian Affairs responded that the stick symbols were actually “coup sticks” which are symbols of bravery amongst the plains Indians.
- The marks or numbers represent the number of “coues” and different battles the warrior was involved in.



Coup Stick

Russian Prisoner Tattoos

You could write a book about Russian Prisoner Tattoos, they are too many to cover, each with a hidden meaning. Here are just a few examples:

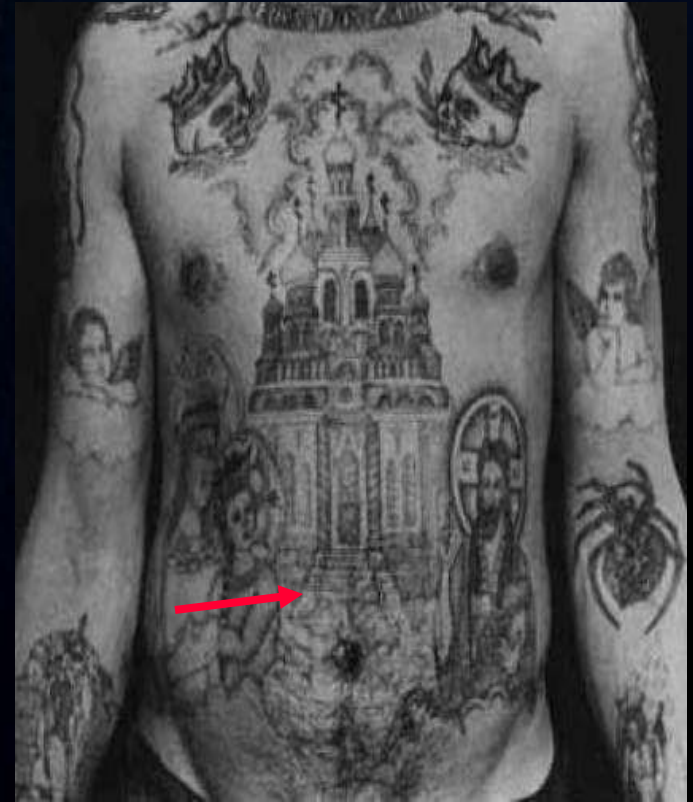


Manacles around ankles mean prisoner has been imprisoned for 5 years or more



Skull = Murder

Epaulette means prisoner had some type of special status prior to prison



Church steeples indicate number of times in prison

Stars = Dignity & Respect. Number of points can indicate years in prison. Higher ranking gang members may have them on knees, signifying they will not kneel on their honor.

Russian Prisoner Tattoos



A cat tattoo represents a prisoner's life as a thief. A single cat means he acted alone, multiple cats show he was part of a gang



Barbed wire tattooed across the forehead signifies a sentence of life imprisonment



A cross can indicate bondage, subordination, or slavery

Russian Prisoner Tattoos

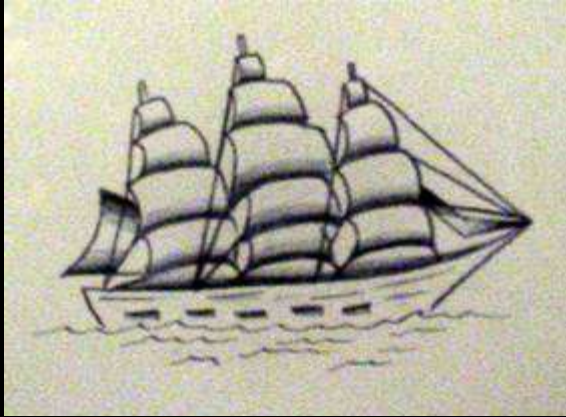


Crowns on fingers or other areas mean the prisoner was a “pakhan”— an above average ranking prisoner. A crown worn on the chest may indicate the wearer is a head of a family.

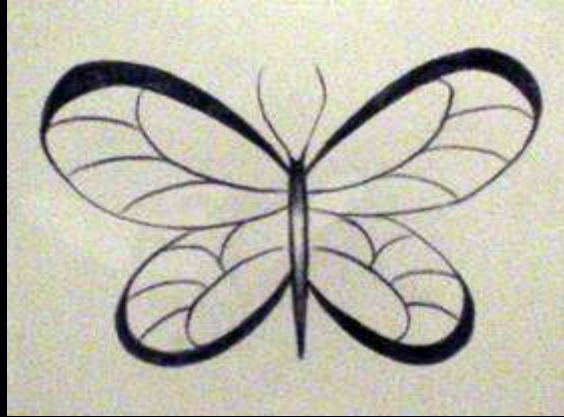


The Scarab beetle is a symbol of good luck for thieves (so-called protection). The tattoo symbolizes a pickpocket. If a spider, it could mean the wearer is a drug addict.

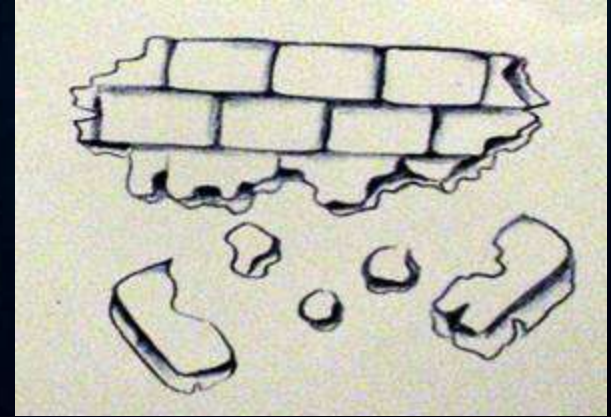
Russian Prisoner Tattoos



The wearer is willing to come along with an escape plan



The wearer is trustworthy and an escape artist



Inside wanting to get out

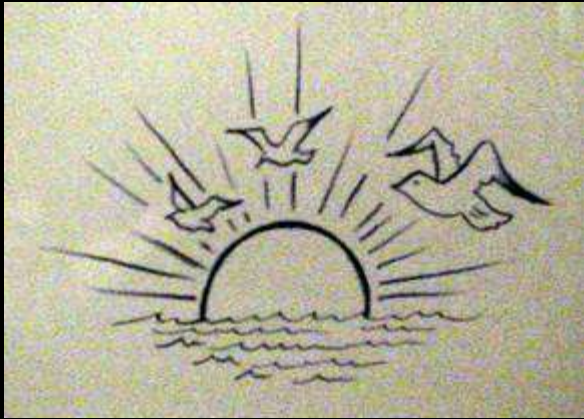


Numbers on the Tombstone indicate years served

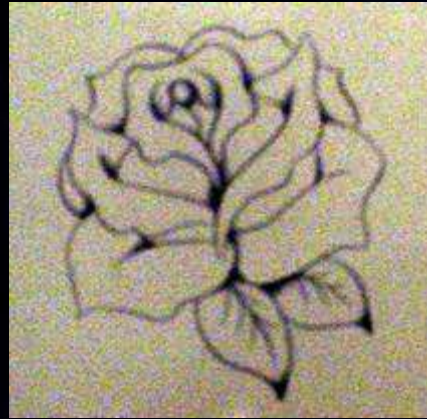


Indicates Inmate serving time for drug related crimes

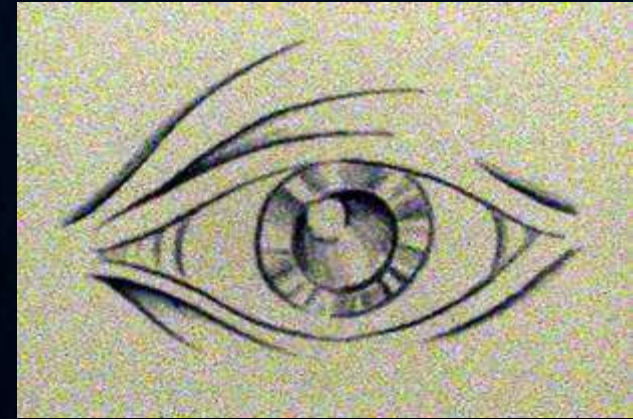
Russian Prisoner Tattoos



Represents Freedom



The wearer celebrated a teenage birthday in prison



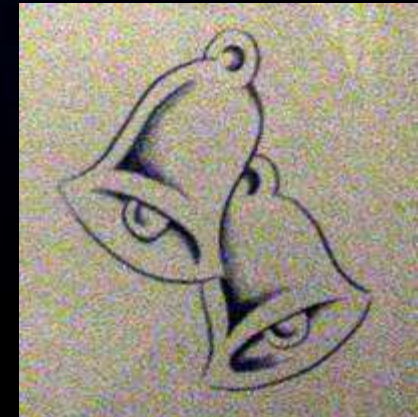
The wearer is watching you



*The wearer is saying
he can extinguish
your light - beware*



*The number of domes
indicate either number
of prison terms or number
of years sentenced*



*The wearer will serve his
full sentence, from "Bell Call
to Bell Call".*

Russian - Sureno Tattoos

This is an example of a former Russian Prisoner who moved to Southern California and later became a Sureno Gang Member



SUR 3CE = SURENO 13

Can you ID this "Gang"? ? ? ?



Can you ID this "Gang"? ? ?



Can you ID this "Gang"? ? ?



Can you ID this "Gang"? ? ? ?



“Freedom Ain’t Free”

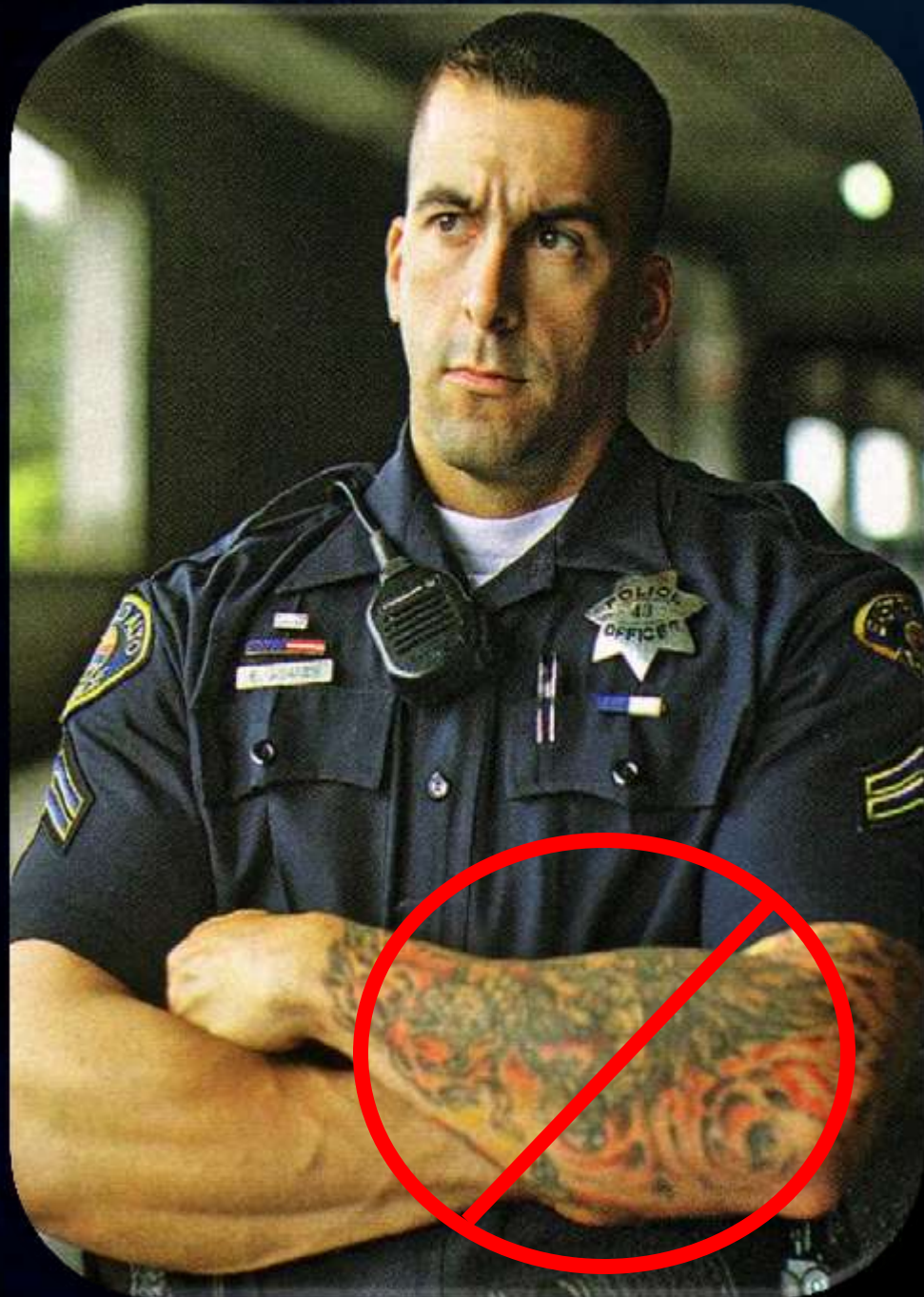


A tattoo on a person's back featuring a large cross in the center. Above the cross, the text "In Loving Memory" is written in a cursive script. Below the cross, the text "Of All Who Felt For Freedom" is written in a similar cursive script.

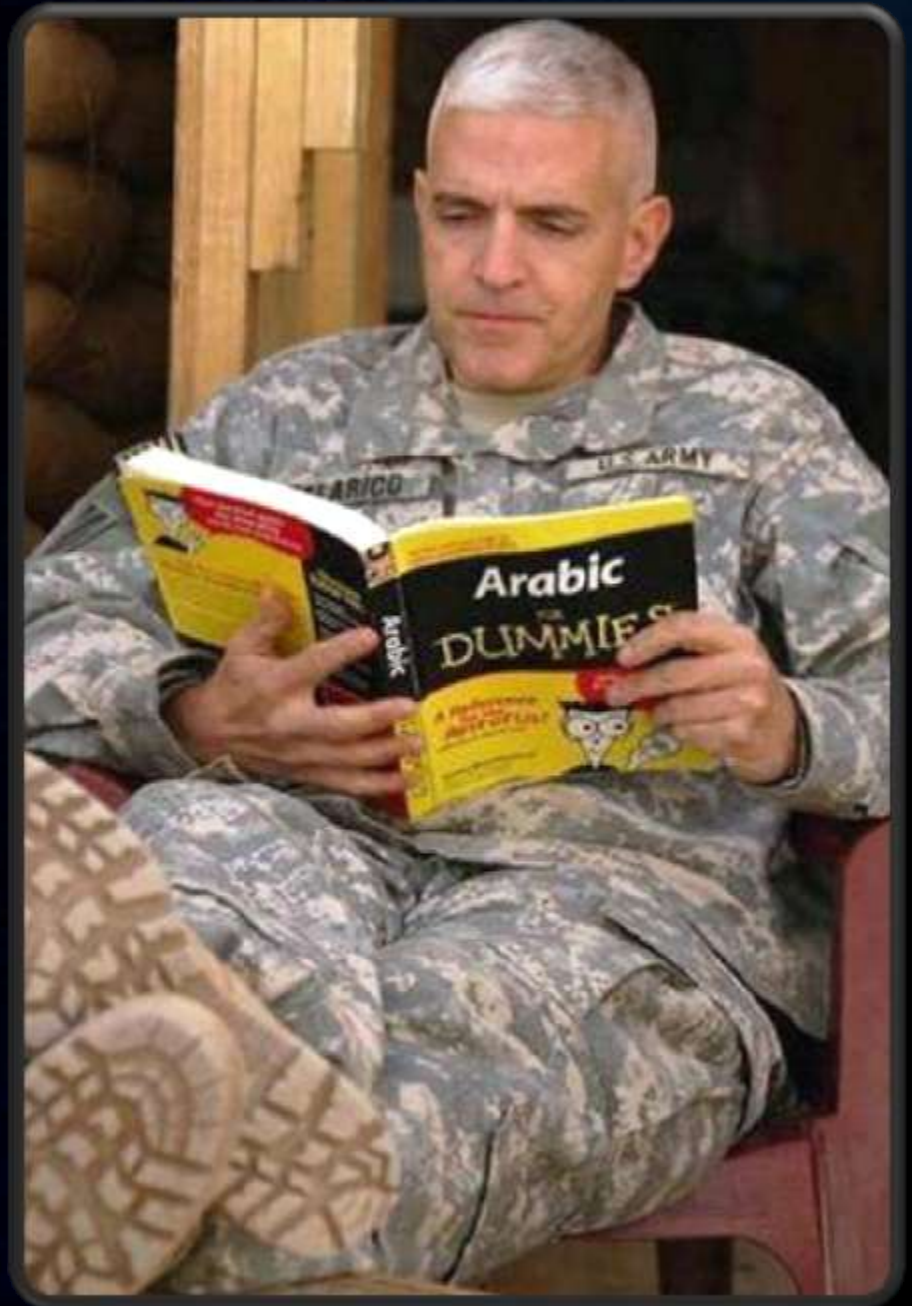


Law Enforcement Tattoos

Many law enforcement agencies have restrictions on visible tattoos. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has a policy that prohibits visible tattoos while in uniform. Deputies are expected to cover-up their visible tattoos with clothing, make-up, or bandages.



Radical Islamist Tattoos



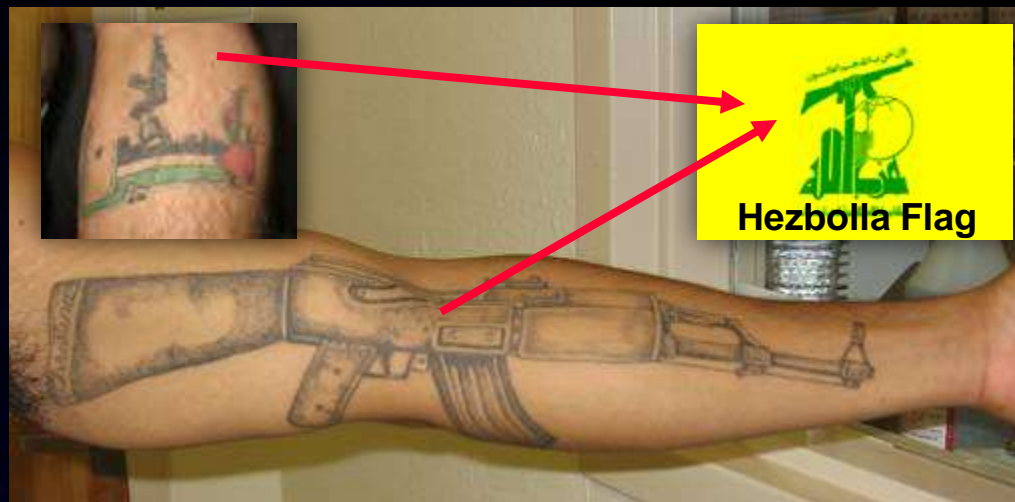
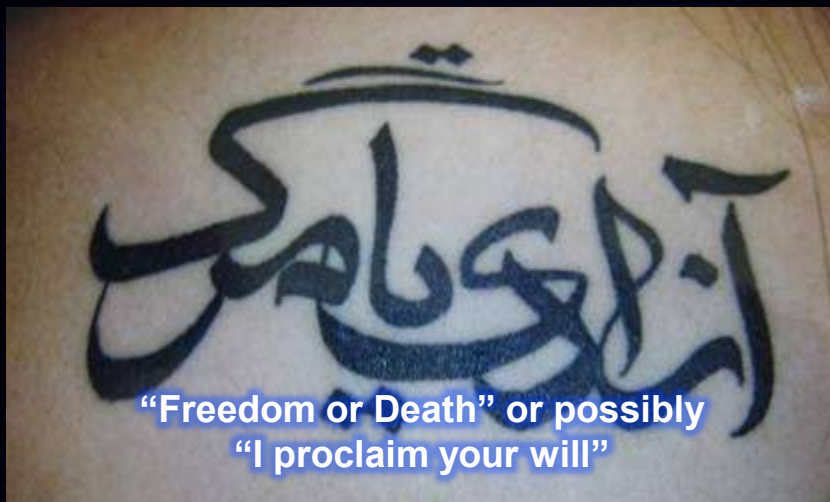
Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails

- Jama'at al-Mutaraabiteen (JAM) "Society of Connectors"
- Ansar El Muhammad (AEM) "Army (Helpers) of the Prophet"
- Jam'iyaat ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) "Assembly of Authentic Islam"
- Jama'at ul-Fuqra (JUF/MOA) (Muslims Of America)
- Tajdeed ul-Islam (TUI) "The Rejuvenation of Submission"
- As-Sabiqun (SBQ) "The Vanguard"
- Black Guerrilla Family (BGF) (Black Muslim Prison Gang)
- Islamist Sympathizers and Lone Wolves
- El Rukins (5% Nation or Nation of Gods and Earth)
 - Chicago based street gang made up of Black Muslims.

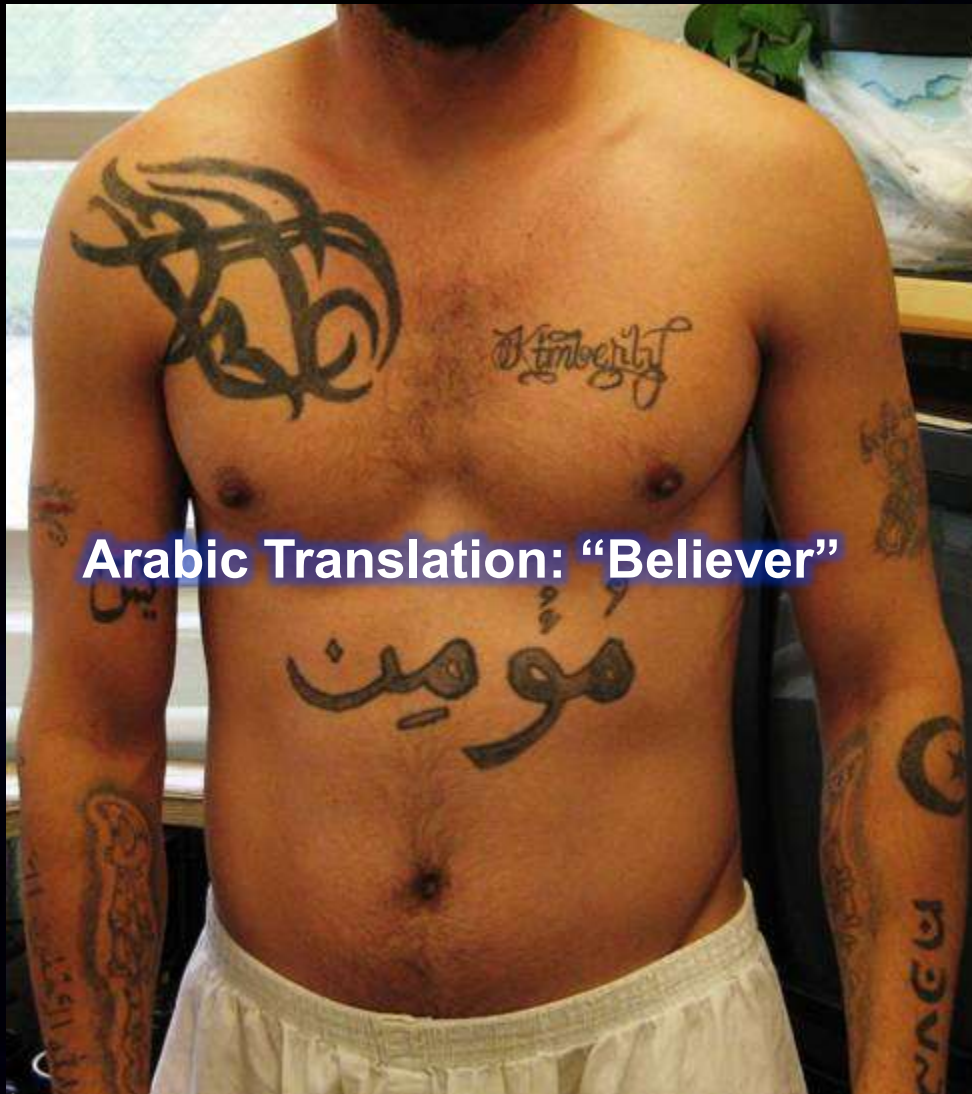
PAKISTANI FLAG



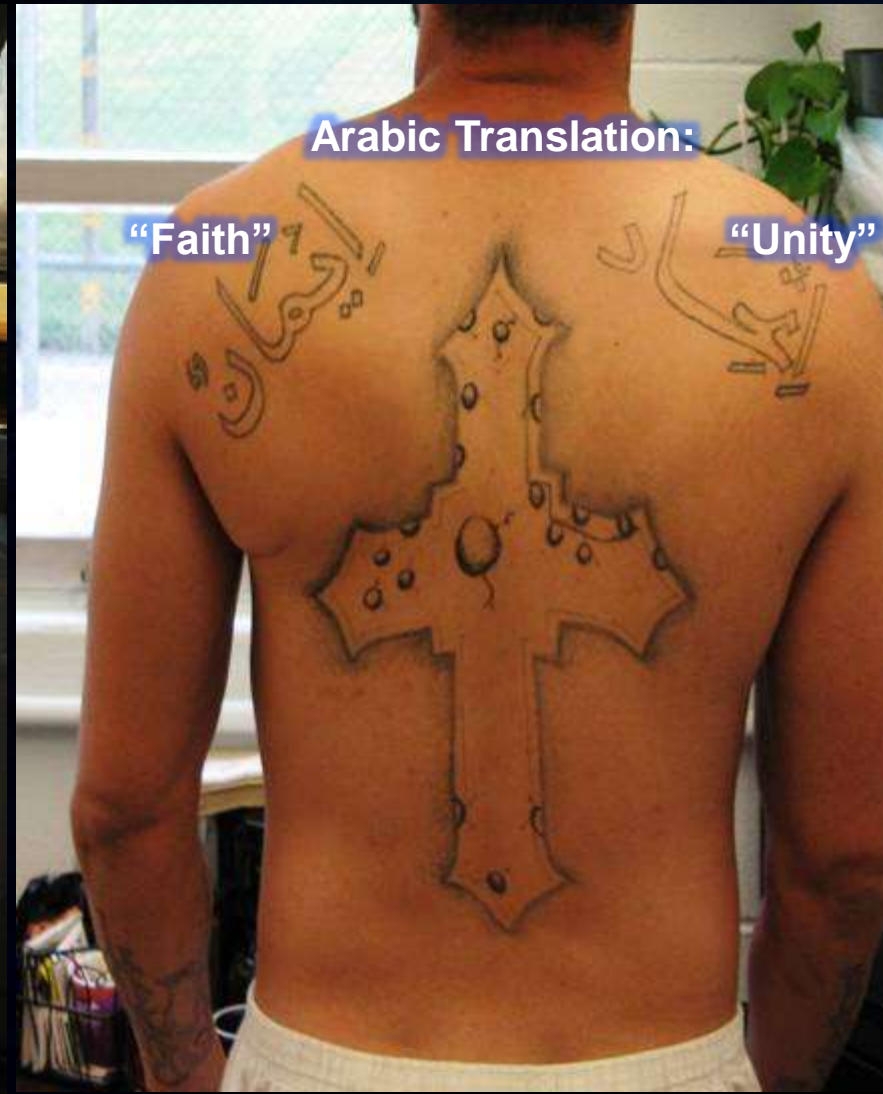
Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



Arabic Translation: "Believer"

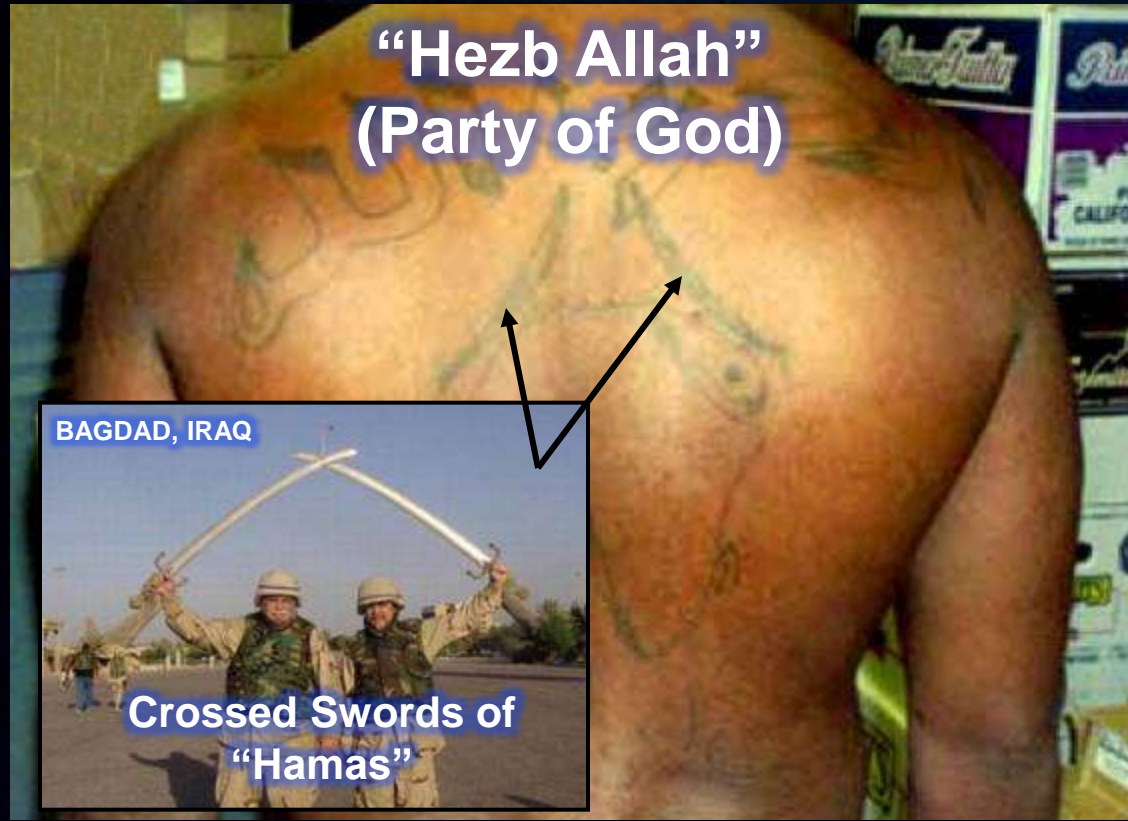


Arabic Translation:

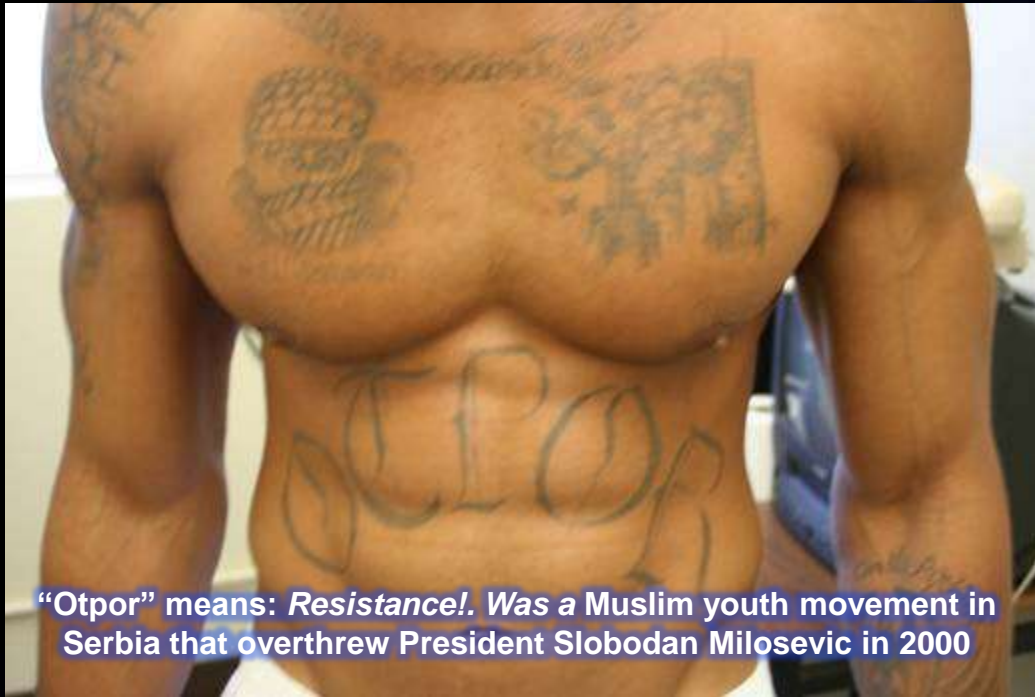
"Faith"

"Unity"

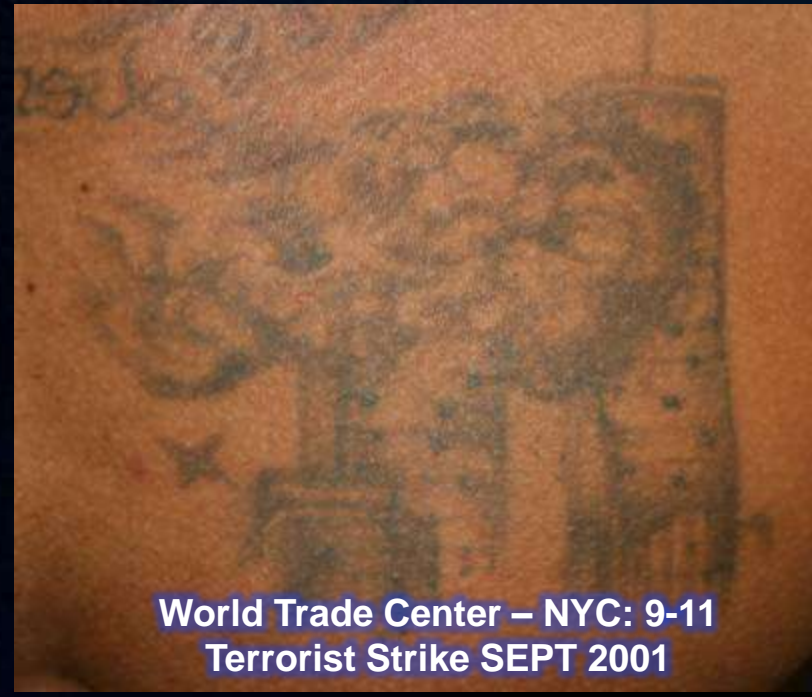
Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



“Otpor” means: *Resistance!*. Was a Muslim youth movement in Serbia that overthrew President Slobodan Milosevic in 2000



**World Trade Center – NYC: 9-11
Terrorist Strike SEPT 2001**



**“Nulli-Secudus” = is Latin for
“Second to none”**



“facilis descensus averno” is Latin for “the road to evil is easy”

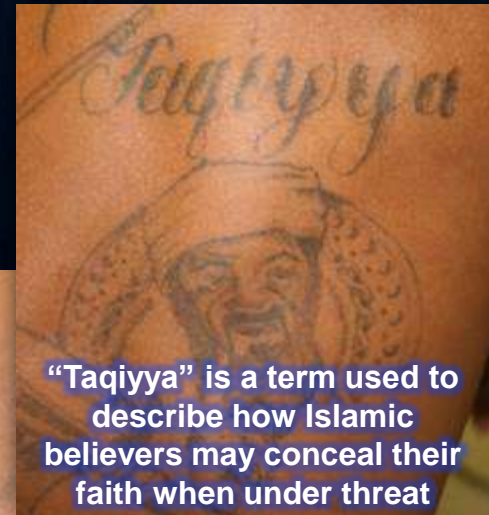
Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



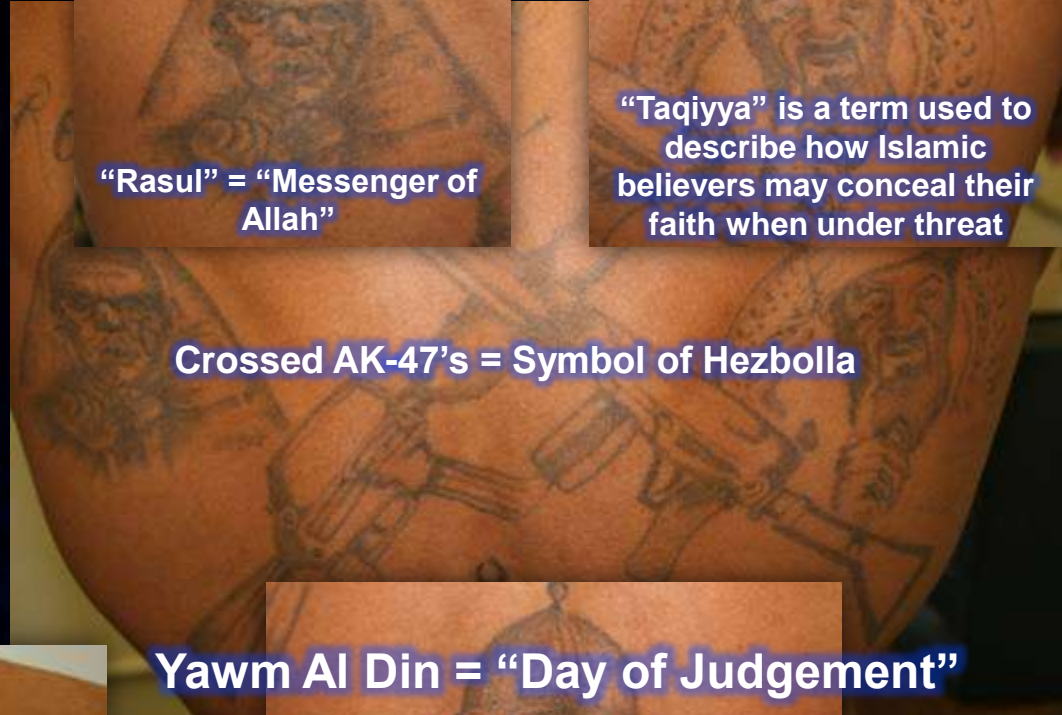
"Dushman Kush" = "Enemy Killer"



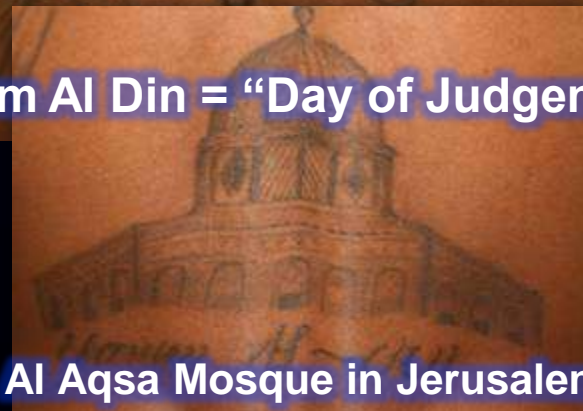
"Rasul" = "Messenger of Allah"



"Taqiyya" is a term used to describe how Islamic believers may conceal their faith when under threat



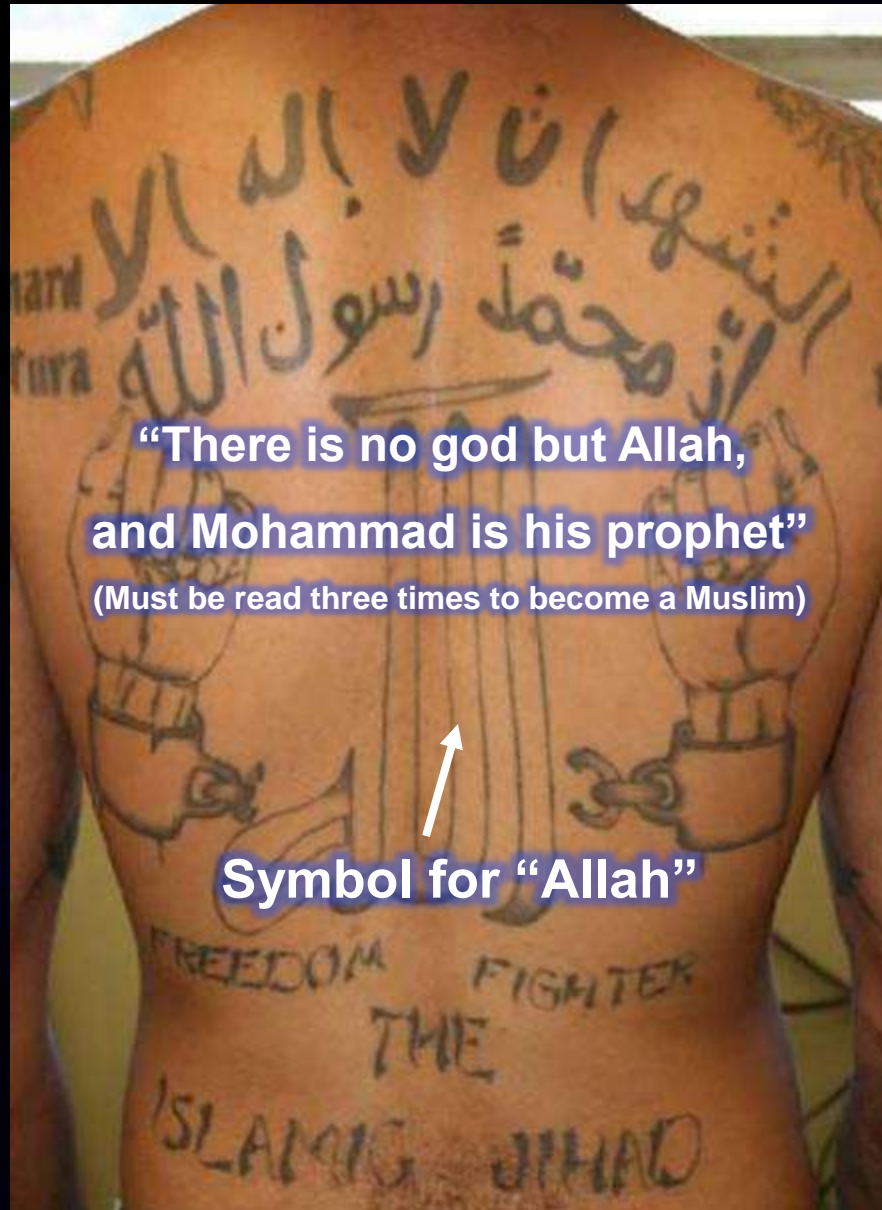
Crossed AK-47's = Symbol of Hezbollah



Yawm Al Din = "Day of Judgement"

Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem

Radical Islamist Groups in our Prison & Jails



MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



Terrorist Tattoos?



In April 2011, a inmate of Iranian decent was screened thru the LA County Jail displaying a tattoos written in "Farsi"



In September 2006, a inmate of Palestine decent was screened thru the Los Angeles County Jail who had some unknown tattoos, some of which were marked "SOA". It was later learned that "SOA" stood for "Soldiers of Allah"

Tattoo leads to Terror Supporter?

By Josh Meyer, LA Times Staff Writer May 26, 2005

In May 2005, a LASD Deputy booked a clothing store owner on charges of selling counterfeit high-fashion merchandise, his attention was drawn to a large tattoo on the man's arm.

After a little research, It turned out to be a symbol associated with the “Fedayeen” which were soldiers loyal to Saddam Hussein and a organization that the U.S. government has designated as a terrorist group.



Mystery Tattoo????

Florida Inmate - NFD

- *In July 2010, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office came across this tattoo. The inmate refused to cooperate and outside assistance was requested regarding the meaning of the tattoo.*

- *After researching the abbreviation "IBAL" it was learned that the abbreviation was used by the "Islamic Balochristian Liberation Army" which is a Pakastain based organization dedicated to the liberation of Kashmir.*

- *The other symbols in the tattoo, i.e Crescent moon and Star, Sword, and AK-47 are supportive of this interpetation.*





Prison Radicalization within our prisons & jails is on the rise.

If you observe a Islamic related tattoo on a inmate please report it to your local Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO), Jail Intelligence Unit, or Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC).

Some Tattoos just
deify explanation

? ? ?
?





This inmate's tattoo depicts the layout of his facilities prison



Some corporations will
pay you to tattoo yourself.
This lady was paid
\$20,000 dollars



This “scorpion” like
tattoo can help
identify the type of
criminal. In this case,
a member of a drug
trafficking cartel.



Miscellaneous Tats



This tattoo denotes "circle of friends" or that the person protected by a group.



Don't forget to check out hard to see spots for tattoos



Number "13" Branded as an act of loyalty and devotion to his gang



This covert tattoo in Chinese characters spells out "Latin Kings".

Toe tag reads = "Rehabilitated"



"Cut Here"



Barbed wire wristband



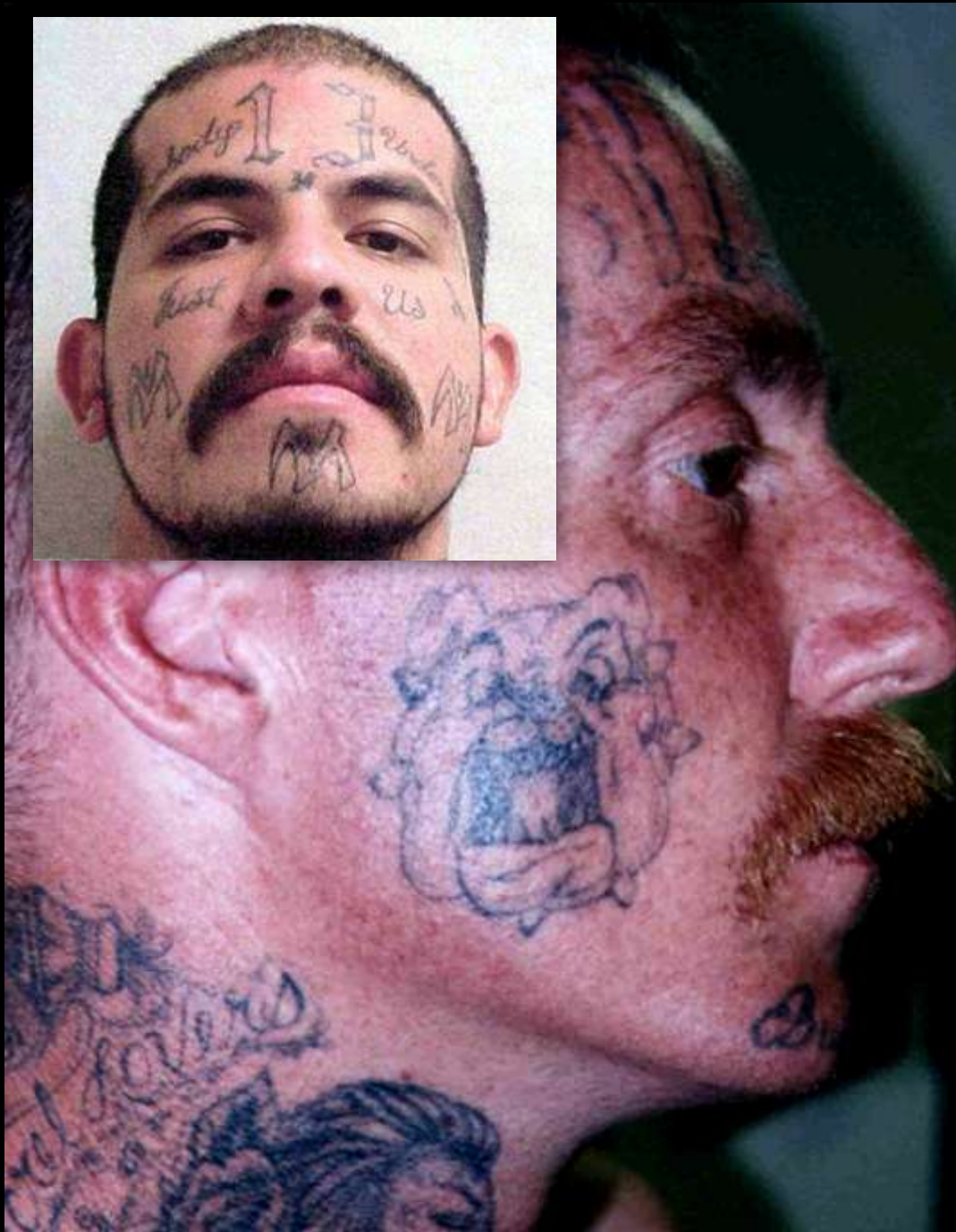
TRUE B"LA"UE



5150 = California Legal
Code for "Crazy"



"Branded" Tattoo



**Full face tattoos
demonstrate loyalty and
commitment to there gang**



Clock Reads "7" & "4" = "G" & "D"
(Gangster Disciple)



"Neta" Prison Gang Tattoos (Puerto Rico)



"LA" Handsign



Emblems can
indicate nicknames
ie. "Joker"



$13 \frac{1}{2}$ = 12 Jurors -1 Judge =
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a Chance



Banditos



Ruler Tattoo – Very Practical





Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos Tattoos



817 = Fort Worth Area Code



"EME" covert Tribal tattoo



"I Love Isabella"



Mayan Number 13



4-13-9

Dead Men Inc.



Mexikanemi

Satanic "Satin Worshiper" Tattoos



From the you gotta be kidding me file....

In June 2010, officer's at the New Castle Correctional Facility in Indiana Identified a new prison gang. The gang is called "Band of Brothers" and is made up of sexual predators from their sexual predator housing units. The tattoo depicts an eagle found on a Pontiac Firebird.





Murder the FBI



Piss on the Feds



Sheriff 187 (Murder)



FTP =
"F" the Police



F * * K

LAPD





"F#%k the System"

"F#%k (LASD) Compton Sheriff's"

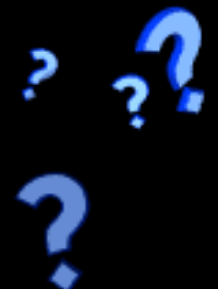
Binghamton Rampage Leaves 14 Dead, Police Don't Know Motive

April 2, 2009

Mystery Tattoo????



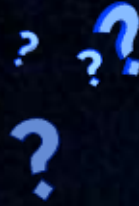
Suspect Jiverly Wong



Mystery Tattoo????

Mexican National - NFD

- *The upside down 4 appears to show disrespect toward Nortenos (14) making him a Sureno.*
- *"Corona" = "Corona Varrio Locos 4th Street" (Riverside County, CA) which is also called "Corona Crown Town".*
- *The crown on top of the cross may mean he puts his gang above god.*
- *The hummingbird tattoo may be associated with the Aztec god Huitzilopochtli which is often depicted as a hummingbird.*
- *The Aztecs felt that the hummingbird represented energy, vigor, and skill at arms to the wearer.*



US Border Patrol – August 2009

Mystery Tattoo????

White Male Inmate - NFD

In September 2009, a white inmate in a Missouri Department of Corrections lock-up was discovered with a very unusual tattoo that had not been seen by gang investigators.

Thinking the tattoo was some type of new prison gang symbol they asked for assistance from fellow gang investigators from around the country.

A Deputy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department recognized it as his fraternity tattoo.

More specifically, the PHI SIGMA KAPPA fraternity. The fraternity specializes in architectural engineering and drafting alumni.

The symbols are a secret alphabet utilizing right angle drafting rulers.

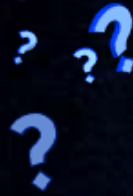
The number underneath is this individuals national fraternity number.



Phi Sigma Kappa

Mystery Tattoo????

Mexican National Inmate - NFD



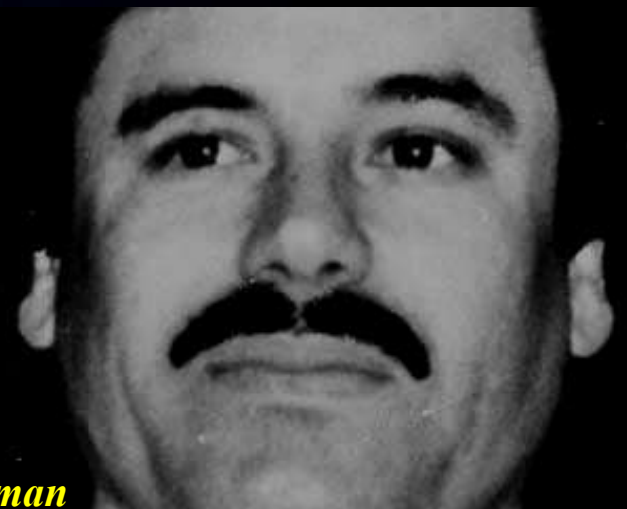
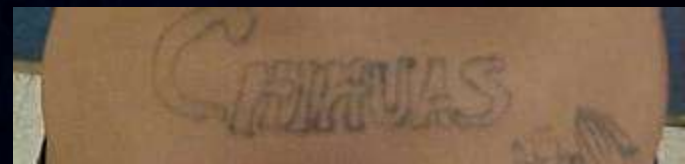
- In August 2009, a Hispanic inmate in a Utah Department of Corrections lock-up was discovered with a unknown portrait tattoo that had not been seen by gang investigators.*

- The inmate was in jail for narcotics smuggling, thinking the tattoo may be related, they asked for assistance from fellow gang investigators from around the country.*

- A Deputy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department recognized the portrait as "El Chapo" Guzman, the leader of the Sinaloa Drug Cartel.*

- The outline in the background is of the Mexican border state Chihuahua. (Chit-Chu-a-Con)*

- The tattoo of "Chihuas" on his stomach is short for Chihuahua.*



"El Chapo" Guzman

Mystery Tattoo????

Mexican National Inmate - NFD

- *In June 2010, the US Border Patrol came across this tattoo. ICE took the handle and asked for assistance.*
- *Eventually a DHS Officer identified the tattoo as a Clothing Company Logo out of San Diego.*



Mystery Tattoo????

Mexican National Inmate - NFD

- *In June 2011, Officers in Skiatook, Ok came across a unknown tattoo on a Hispanic arresttee and asked for assistance from outside agencies in identifying the meaning of the tattoo.*
- *A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy recognized the tattoo to be a copy of the Logo used by a Mexican Soccer Team called "Club America".*
- *The "SS" was determined to mean "South Sider" which is short for a Sureno Gangmember.*



Scarring in Lieu of Tattoos (Scarification)

"Skin carving" appears as the next fad beyond tattooing. It's called "scarification". Some are done by tattoo shops, and a lot are home-made with exacto knives, tweezers and rubbing alcohol. The legality and health issues involved with this fad are sure to become tomorrow's news.



The "Procedure"



2 weeks later

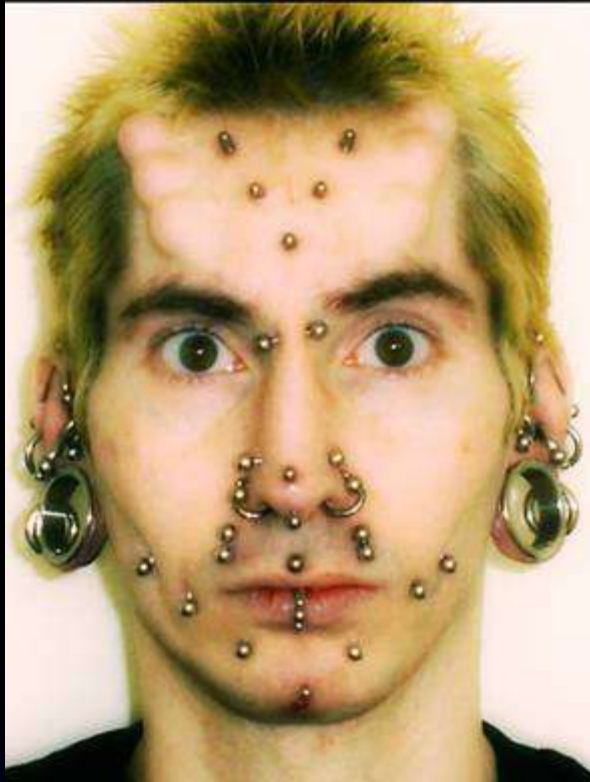


4 weeks later

Tattoo Implants



Extreme Body Piercing Examples



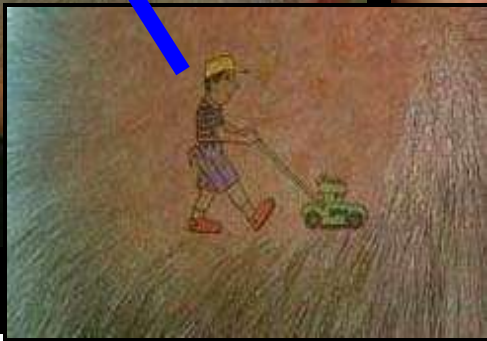
More Extreme Piercing Examples



More Extreme Piercing Examples



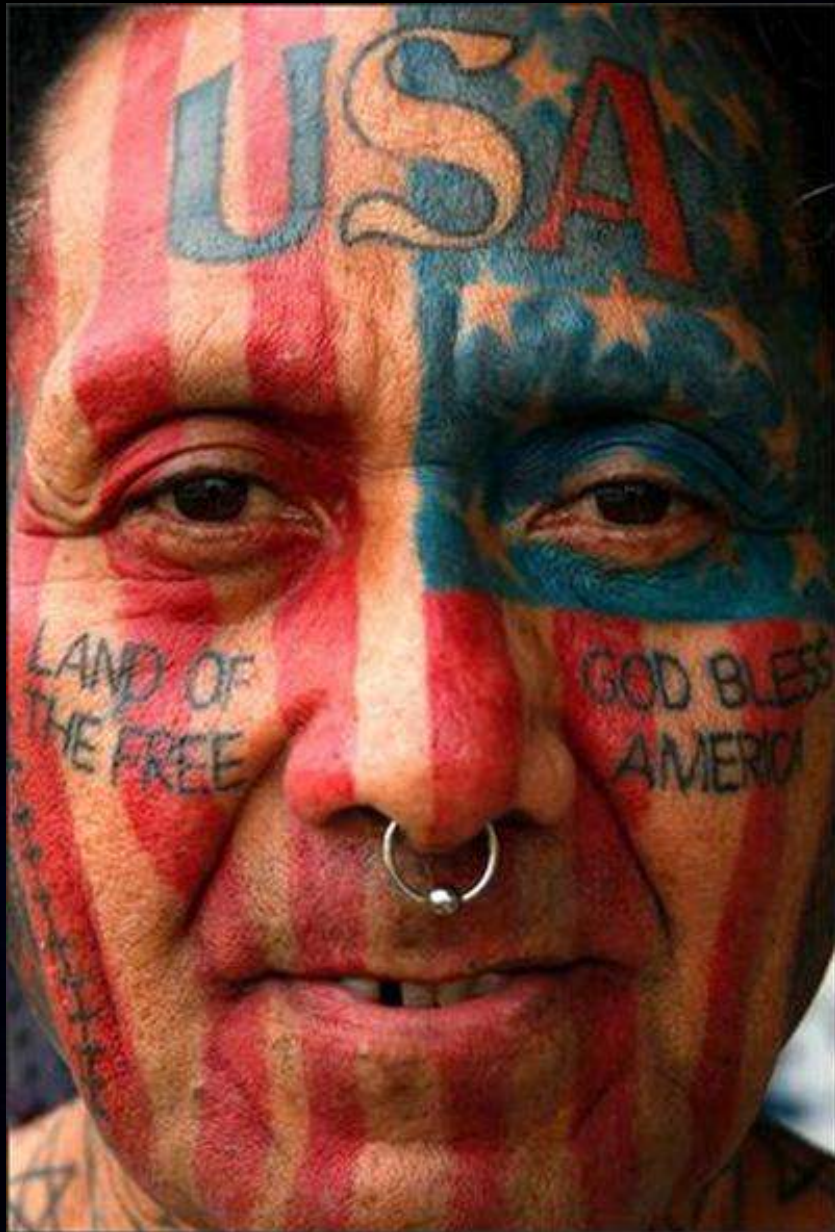
TATTOOS PROMOTE INDIVIDUALITY



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TATTOOS PROMOTE INDIVIDUALITY



TATTOOS PROMOTE INDIVIDUALITY





Most Regrettable Tattoo

Worst Tattoo Ever?





If you have any questions or comments about this presentation, please contact Custody Training at (213) 893-5171, or email jdwillia@lasd.org, Thanks.

